METRO / A21

4 new witnesses surface to help probers of hazing death

WORLD / A24

Bin Laden to taunt US anew in video for 9/11 anniversary

WORLD / A23

UK mother to be named suspect in 4-year-old daughter's disappearance

BUSINESS / B1

Forex reserves breached $30-B due to investment inflows, remittances

SAT. SPECIAL / F1

Brad & Angie romancing in Venice

Palace lawyer to Abalos, Mendoza: Come clean

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENTIAL LEGAL ADVISER SERGIO Apostol yesterday called on Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to come clean on the controversy surrounding the award of the $330-million national broadband net-

PALACE/ A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, September 8, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 272 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

5 Big Business groups seek Abalos resignation

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FIVE INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS GROUPS and think tanks yesterday reiterated their call for Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to resign for his "indiscreet conduct" in the controversial national broadband network deal.

In a joint statement, the Makati

5 BIG BUSINESS/ A11

Pro-, anti-GMA senators clash over Doble testimony

ROGER MARGALLO

THE LONE RANGER: Out of 6 invited to the Senate reinvestigating "Garci," only retired intelligence operative, Sgt. Vidal Doble (left), shows up. From left, Senators Nene Pimentel, Jinggoy Estrada (partly hidden), Juan Ponce Enrile, Pia Cayetano, Joker Arroyo, Dick Gordon, Rodolfo Biazon and Alan Peter Cayetano.

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SENATE INQUIRY REVIVING THE "Hello Garci" controversy turned into the most heated skirmish yet between administration and opposition lawmakers since the opening of the 14th Congress.

Administration senators yesterday took turns attacking the credibility of a former military intelligence officer who claimed to have recorded the "Garci" tapes, calling him a "master of double-talk" who had already profited from his past testimonies in the House of Representatives and the Court of Appeals.

Senators Richard Gordon, Juan Ponce Enrile and Joker Arroyo pounded Doble regarding his previous testimonies in the

PRO-, ANTI-GMA/ A19

Doble tags GMA aide

Bishop Soc defends role, names Medy Poblador

By Christine O. Avendaño

A MALACAÑANG OFFICIAL WAS INVOLVED IN whisking away from a Roman Catholic seminary a military agent who said he took part in the recording of the "Hello Garci" tape. He was reportedly set to reveal its contents until a Catholic bishop asked him to leave the seminary to join his family.

This was the testimony of former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble when he appeared yesterday at the start of a new Senate probe into the scandal involving allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo rigged the results of the 2004 presidential election with the help of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Doble identified the Malacañang officer simply as "Medy." He described her as a "secretary of President Arroyo."

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson gave the woman's full name as Remedios Poblador, assigned to the presidential legislative office. Malacañang said she was an undersecretary at that office. *(See story below.)*

"It could very well bring us right at the doorstep of Malacañang," Lacson said of Poblador's supposed role in the "Hello Garci" affair.

Testifying before the joint hearing of the national defense, blue ribbon, and election reform committees, Doble also accused Malacañang of "covering up" the alleged cheating that occurred in the 2004 presidential election.

Asked by Sen. Jamby Madrigal what he thought of the compact disks which Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye first showed

DOBLE TAGS/ A19

PHOTO OP: President Arroyo poses for a souvenir picture with US President Bush (center) and other Asean leaders on the sidelines of the Apec summit in Sydney, Australia, on Friday. From left: Thai Prime Minister Surayud Chaulanont; Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Bush and Indonesia's Foreign Minister Hassan Wirejuda. AP

Who's Medy, why she makes things happen

By Michael Lim Ubac and Tony Bergonia

YES, MEDY WORKS AT MALAcañang, is a relative of one of the country's most respected bishops, and she is coming out to face the public soon.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno confirmed late yesterday that Remedios "Medy" L. Poblador is an undersecretary detailed with the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office in the House of Representatives.

Her biggest and most crucial role came in the last senatorial elections, said one Palace source who was not authorized to speak on the matter.

It was through her that requests for funding for the campaign of members of Team Unity were made, especially those of defeated candidates Cesar Montano and Sultan Kiram, the source added.

"She held the combination of the vault," said the source.

The official directory of Mala-

WHO'S MEDY/ A19

GMA meet with Bush, US biz execs canceled

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY (via PLDT)—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo did not get to have the 20-minute one-on-one meeting she was expecting with US President George W. Bush but the two "talked all the time" during a lunch that Bush hosted for leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) yesterday.

Ms Arroyo's meeting with Bush, the star of the two-day Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders' summit here, was canceled at the last minute.

Even the President's dinner meeting with the president and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce and the US Apec Business Council were also canceled. The reasons for both cancellations were unclear.

Bush was supposed to sit down for a meeting with Ms Arroyo right after the lunch that he hosted for the seven leaders of Asean who are also members of Apec on

GMA MEET/ A10

Gov't grants amnesty to Reds

By Michael Lim Ubac

SAYING AMNESTY WAS "ESSENTIAL TO attaining peace and reconciliation," President Macapagal-Arroyo issued on Thursday Proclamation No. 1377 granting amnesty to members of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and the National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), as well as those in detention for political crimes.

Jesus Dureza, the President's peace adviser, said CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison could avail himself of the amnesty but doubted if it was possible for the latter, who has lived in the Netherlands since 1987, to do so.

The Associated Press yesterday quoted Si-

GOV'T GRANTS/ A18

MAG-INGAT SA GALIT NG KABIT!

Corrupt China executive done in by 11 mistresses

BEIJING—A CORRUPT SENIOR CHINESE official was denounced by his 11 mistresses after some of their husbands were sentenced to death for graft, state media said on Friday.

The news comes just days after a senior provincial Communist Party official was executed for blowing up his mistress with a car bomb.

"Second wives" are common among government officials and businessmen in China and are often blamed for driving men to seek money through bribes

CORRUPT/ A19

Erap asks for ma's blessing as verdict out Wednesday

By Jocelyn R. Uy

The Verdict

JOSEPH ESTRADA HAS ONE LAST court pass to seek his ailing mother's blessing before the verdict on his plunder case is handed down on Wednesday.

Before noon yesterday, the Sandiganbayan Special Division set judgment day on Sept. 12—a day ahead of the deadline prescribed by the Constitution—with the issuance of a notice to the accused and an order to the police to produce them in court.

Estrada is accused of amassing about P4 billion in illegal funds including gambling payoffs and tobacco tax kickbacks, and of falsely declaring his assets. The verdict on his co-respondents in the plunder and perjury cases—his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and lawyer Edward Serapio—will be handed down on the same day.

Several hours after the announcement, the antigraft court issued a resolution granting the ousted President's request to visit his mother Mary Ejercito on Sunday at the San Juan Medical Center.

Estrada said the visit was impor-

ERAP ASKS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007

Second FrontPage

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EZ2 20 3 | **FOUR DIGIT** 1 3 0 9

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
9 7 6 | 8 7 0
(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 15 23 29 36 42
P10,113,836.40

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/07/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Joma's plea vs murder raps heard

Dutch court to decide next week whether to prolong his detention

THE HAGUE—A DUTCH COURT heard defense arguments Friday for dropping murder charges against Philippine communist leader Jose Maria Sison, and said it would rule next week on whether to prolong his detention, his lawyer said.

Dutch prosecutors claim Sison, the founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), ordered the separate killings of two political opponents in Manila in 2003 and 2004. He denies the allegations.

Defense attorney Victor Koppe said the judges "were very interested in the arguments and they want to take a full week to consider them."

Positive sign

Koppe saw that decision as positive. "He has a good chance," the attorney said.

But at his initial court appearance on Aug. 31, judges said there are "serious indications that (Sison) bears guilt for conspiring or inciting these two murders in the Philippines." He was ordered held while the investigations continue.

Sison, 68, was arrested Aug. 28 in Utrecht, where he has lived in self-imposed exile for 20 years.

Dutch investigators were also studying whether the murders could be considered war crimes, given that they occurred in the context of the Philippines' 39-year-old leftist insurgency, prosecution spokesman Wim de Bruin said Friday.

Supporters

Dozens of supporters gathered outside the Hague court chanting slogans demanding Sison's release. His wife, Julie De Lima, said his family and associates had complained to the International Committee of the Red Cross against his detention in isolation without visitation rights.

De Lima said the case against her husband was based on testimony from the widows of the men killed. Prosecutors have declined to elaborate on the evidence, saying it was only gathered in the Netherlands and the Philippines.

Sison's supporters fear Dutch authorities are preparing to extradite him to the Philippines, but Koppe said that was unlikely.

"The human rights record of the Philippines is such that there is no way Holland is ever going to extradite Sison," he said.

Big mistake

Dutch prosecutors accuse Sison of ordering the killings of Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004. The CPP, which the European Union designated a terrorist group in 2002, claimed responsibility for both slayings.

Luis Jalandoni, chairman of the international arm of the National Democratic Front (NDF), an umbrella organization of far-left Philippine groups, said "it would be a big mistake" for the Dutch to become enmeshed in the Philippines conflict.

Workhorse?

He accused the government of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende of being "a workhorse" for Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo and for the US government which is closely allied to her.

Jalandoni also dismissed the offer extended Friday by Ms Arroyo's government of amnesty to communist rebels, in an effort to revive peace talks that have been stalled since 2004. He said similar offers had been made many times in the past.

"There's always a possibility of a truce, but that won't happen while these kind of actions are being carried out," he said, referring to Sison's arrest.

Sison has been denied asylum in the Netherlands. *AP*

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman is shown meeting with the rallyists on Wednesday.

Protesters storm DAR chief's office, are dispersed by security guards

By TJ Burgonio

PROTESTING FARMER-BENEFICIARIES stormed the Department of Agrarian Reform building before noon yesterday and staged a sit-down protest outside Secretary Nasser Pangandaman's office before they were violently dispersed.

Some 50 protestors from the Task Force Mapalad broke down an unused gate, dashed across a ramp to the building's second floor, and ran up to Pangandaman's office at the fourth floor.

The move caught policemen and guards by surprise which threw the building into a frenzy and sent alarmed DAR employees scurrying across corridors to bolt doors.

The protestors were huddled together in front of the Secretary's office and were chanting "Pangandaman, resign" when the guards caught up with them. Within minutes, the guards started dragging them down.

Pangandaman, who was presiding over a meeting during the protestors' caper, condemned the unruly leaders and members of both peasant organizations, and vowed to file charges against them.

"They're becoming unruly; we have to take action. Some of them were not even farmers," he said in a phone interview. "I take responsibility for the dispersal."

The protesters had been camping outside the DAR since last week. At least 300 massed and mounted a sit-down protest outside the building last Monday, in one of the biggest mobilizations of farmers this year.

The farmers were protesting the conversion of farmland for agri-business under the RP-China agreement, the non-installation of beneficiaries, delayed resolution of cases, and exemption of livestock farming from agrarian reform, among others.

They had demanded the resignations of Pangandaman and three mid-level officials for their alleged anti-farmer policies.

Meanwhile, two DAR undersecretaries have filed leaves of absence, setting off rumors that they had quit their posts.

Pangandaman confirmed that Undersecretary Jeffrey Galan and Undersecretary Bernardo Cruz had filed leaves of absence.

He wasn't aware of any reason why the two officials would go on leave, but offered a theory: "They must be tired from work."

Rumors had been swirling since Thursday that Galan and Cruz had tendered their resignation to President Macapagal-Arroyo, but this could not be confirmed. The two could not be reached for comment.

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China-funded cyber education project also hit

By Allison W. Lopez

ANOTHER MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR PROJECT recently signed in China has also come under fire. A legislator yesterday slammed the $460 million Cyber Education Program (CEP) which was sealed at the same time as the controversial $329 million National Broadband Network deal with ZTE Corp. of China.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez branded the two technological contracts signed in China as "twin sisters of anomaly."

Both projects were to be financed by a concessional loan from China. Copies of both contracts were also lost.

Rodriguez warned that aside from being more costly than the NBN project, the satellite-based project CEP would "displace hundreds of thousands of teachers" whose role will be taken over by television sets.

The CEP would allow students to watch a teacher lecture on a subject, like math or science, on TV in their classrooms. The teacher would be doing the lecture from a studio and the session would be beamed to the students' TV by satellite much in the same way TV networks beam live broadcasts of a Pacquiao boxing match in Las Vegas or an NBA game in Chicago.

Rodriguez said he would raise the CEP in his privilege speech on Monday because he feared that the IT project would turn into a "white elephant."

The CEP contract was signed with Chinese firm Tsinghua Tongfang Nuctech Co. (Nuctech). The Philippine government plans to complete the CEP by 2010.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila, on behalf of the Department of Education, signed the contract for the CEP with Dr. Kang Ke Jung, of Tsinghua, on April 21.

Military to release report in Jonas case; mom elated

By Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria

IN WHAT COULD SPELL A VICTORY for the family of missing activist Jonas Burgos, the military leadership yesterday said it would comply with the Court of Appeals order to release the Provost Marshal General's report on a plate number under military custody that was later seen on the vehicle of Jonas' abductors.

"It's a legal court order so by all means we have to follow the court order and the laws of the land," Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. told reporters at Camp Aguinaldo.

Edita Burgos, Jonas' mother, was elated by Esperon's willingness to release the report, saying it would provide the family with leads in their search for the missing activist.

Edita has been requesting the military for a copy of the report in the belief that it contains important information that could lead to Jonas or his abductors.

"I am very happy he's finally giving a report to the Court of Appeals. I'm sure that report will provide us some leads," she said in a phone interview.

She said the plate number was important because it was a link to her son's abductors.

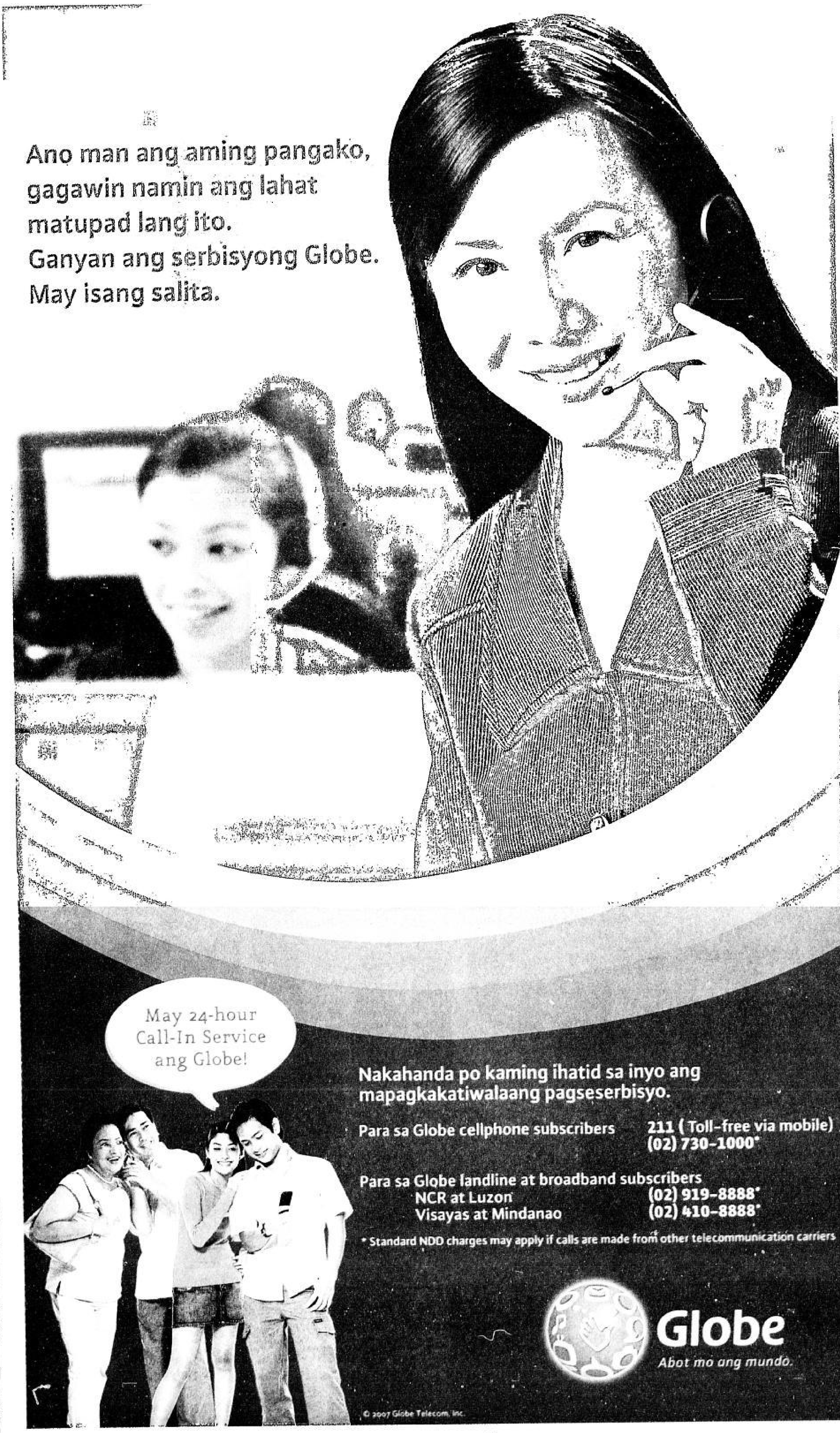
But Edita wondered why it had to take a court directive for the military to give her a copy of the report.

In her earlier petition for habeas corpus, Edita asked the Court of Appeals to subpoena the report of Provost Marshal General Col. Arthur Abadilla on the loss of a plate number later seen with Jonas' alleged abductors.

Esperon, however, pointed out that the report has been marked "confidential... so that the integrity of some people will not be prejudiced, as well as some security concerns."

"I don't know how the Court of Appeals will treat it if they see some security matters there. But it's a court order and we recognize that. We will comply (with) it," he said.

Jonas, 36, son of the late publisher and press freedom icon, Jose "Joe" Burgos, was abducted by unidentified armed men last April 28 in Quezon City. The plate number of one of the vehicles used by his abductors was later traced to a vehicle impounded at the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray, Bulacan.



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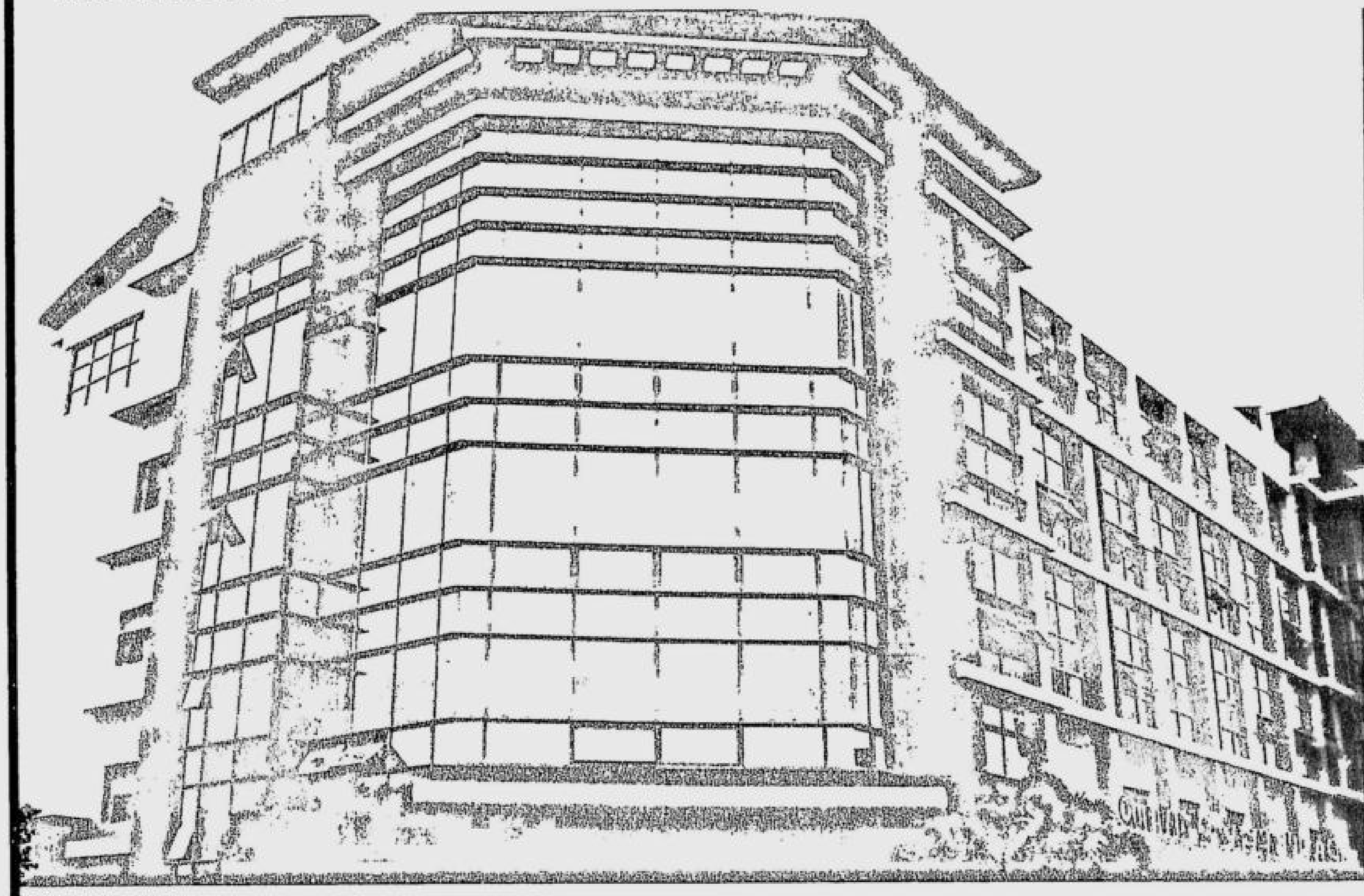

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OUR VISION

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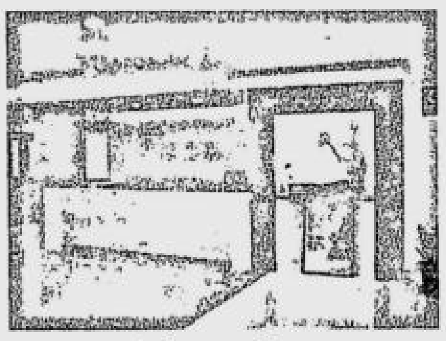
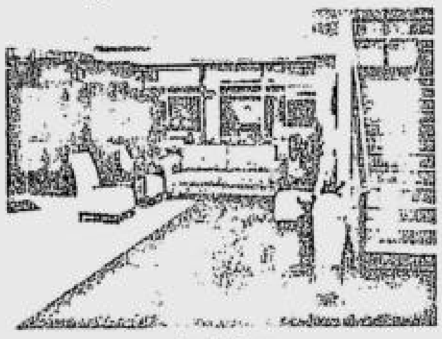
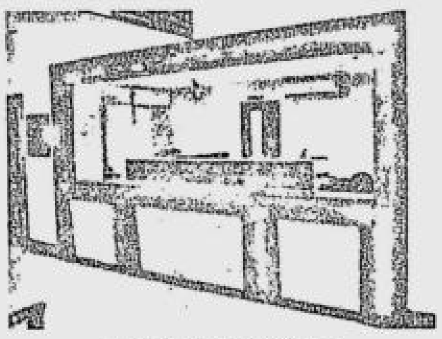
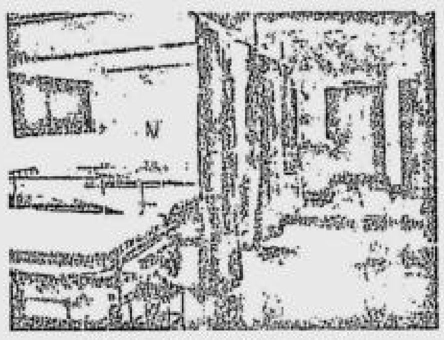
Now situated at the heart of a busting community in Lemery Batangas, Our Lady of Caysasay Medical Center (OLCMC) still upholds the pride that its forefounders have been carrying through the years. With its **newly constructed building,** OLCMC can serve better its increasing number of patients with a touch of a homey atmosphere. **Its professional & reliable Medical Staff and Personnel** backed up by its **complete facilities & services and state-of-the-art equipment & information system,** will continually serve as a concrete assurance of its Excellence. Thus, OLCMC is the embodiment of the phrase, **"Responding to the Needs of the Patients and Adapting with the Modern Times."**

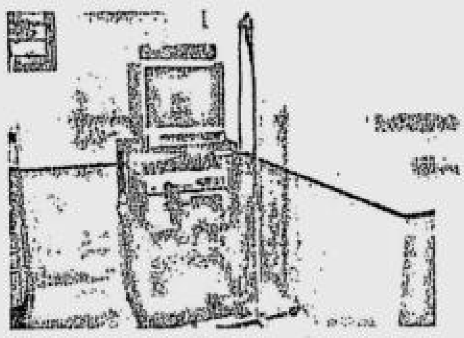
Various Amenities of the NEW OLCMC Building

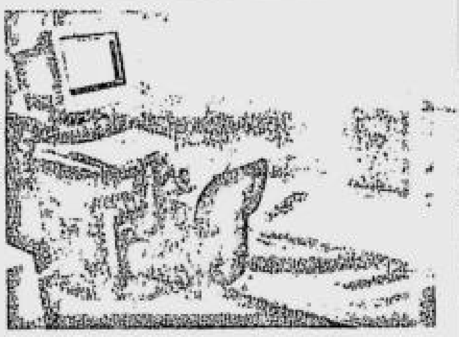

Information

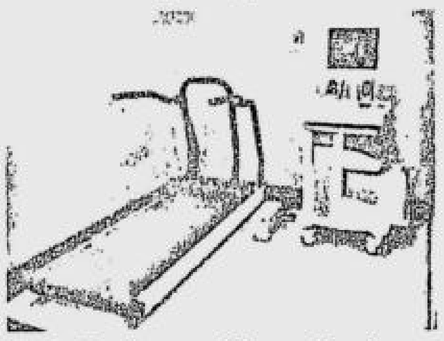

Lobby

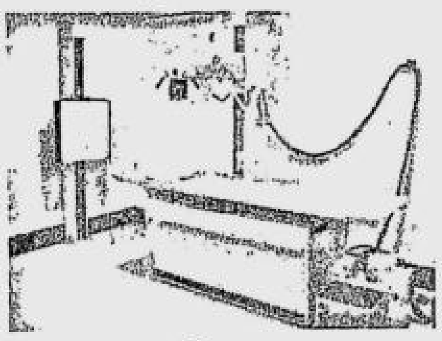

Business Office

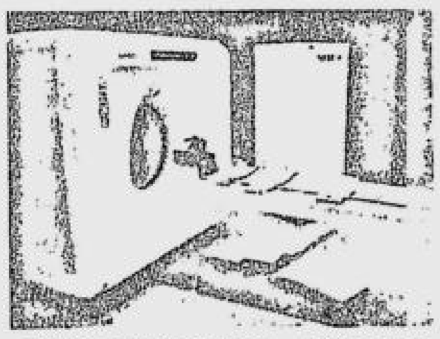

Emergency Room

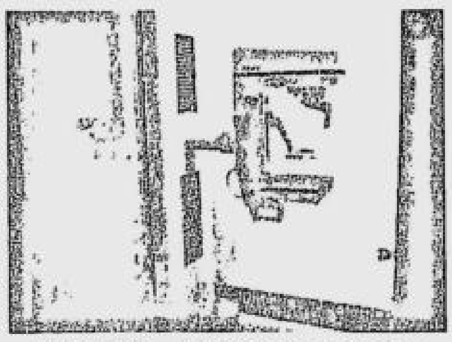

Endoscopy & Bronchoscopy

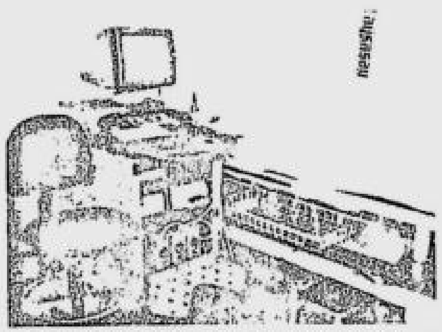

Caris Plus - 2D Echo

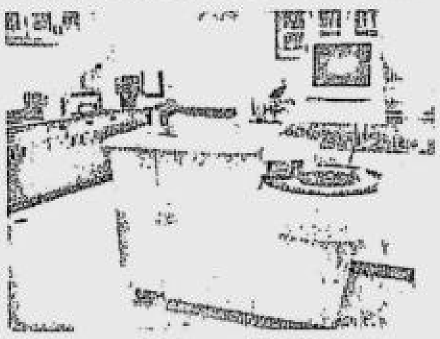

Mortara - Stress Test


X-ray


GE Quantex Plus - CT Scan


ESP 200 - Mammography


Voluson 730 Pro - 4D Ultrasound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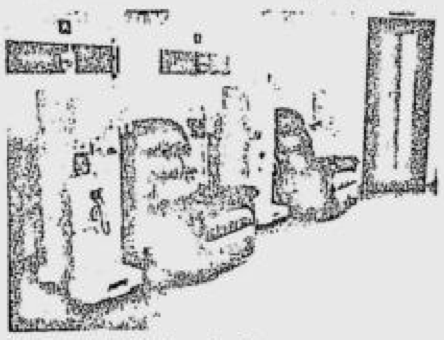
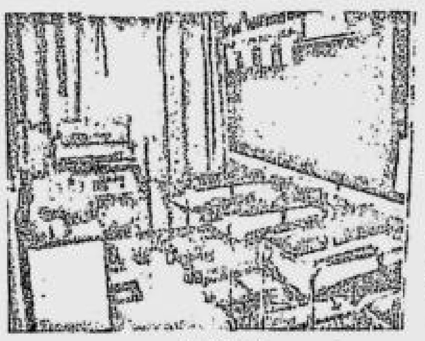

Dialysis Room

Intensive Care Unit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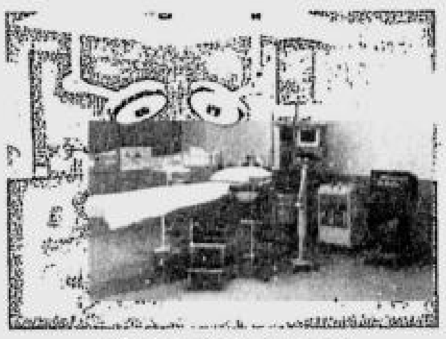
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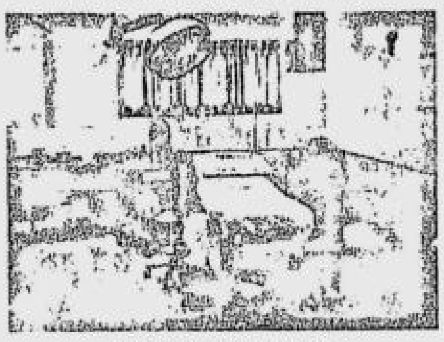
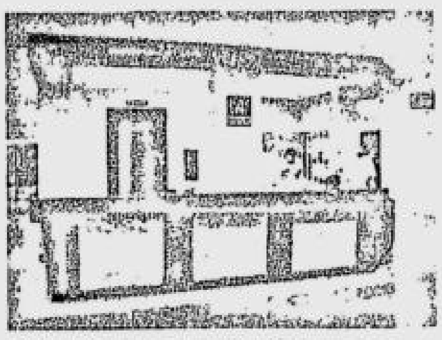

Delivery Room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CHANGE OF COMMAND
Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon turns over the flag to Maj. General Fernando Mesa, the new commander of the National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) vice Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino (left) during rites held Friday at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City. JOAN BONDOC

AFP: No decision yet to buy China-made aircraft

SENDING A FIVE-MAN team to look over Chinese-made aircraft being offered for sale to the Air Force was not an endorsement nor a commitment to buy, Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said yesterday.

The PAF team went to China on the invitation of aircraft manufacturer China Aviation Industry Corp. (CATIC) to view its line of utility helicopters and fixed-wing transport aircraft.

"There's an open bidding, but so far they are the only ones who have invited us to look at their products," said Tolentino.

He said the PAF paid for the trip of the team which is expected to return to Manila this weekend.

The team includes representatives from the Cebu-based 220th Airlift Wing and the 205th Tactical Helicopter Wing and is headed by PAF Vice Commander Maj. Gen. Pedro Ike Insierto.

The Air Force is looking to replace its aging fleet which currently has no China-made aircraft in its roster.

Tolentino said military asset procurement is a long and complicated process and the ocular inspection mission should not be taken as a sign that the PAF would buy China-made aircraft.

The Chinese offer came as questions are being raised worldwide about the integrity of China-made products, from toys to food items. *Tarra Quismundo*

NO DISCRIMINATION, RULING SAYS

RP nurses lose case vs US hiring firm

By Jerome Aning

THE UNITED STATES' DEPARTMENT of Justice has dismissed the "unfair immigration-related employment practices" filed by 26 Filipino health care professionals against Sentosa Care LLC, a private network of nursing homes based in New York.

Sentosa's Manila-based lawyer Ibaro Relamida Jr. said the recruitment company was informed of the decision last Aug. 31.

Katherine Baldwin, special deputy counsel of the US DOJ Civil Rights Division, sent a letter to Elizabeth Hack, legal counsel of Sentosa Care LLC, New York which said: "Based on its investigation, this office has determined that there is insufficient evidence of reasonable cause to believe the injured parties were discriminated against as prohibited by the 8 U.S.C. § 1324b."

Baldwin was referring to the United States Code, Title 8, Section 1324b, which prohibits any form of employment discrimination based on national origin and citizenship status.

"The dismissal stated that the US DOJ has determined that there was insufficient evidence of reasonable cause to believe that the injured parties were discriminated," said Relamida in a phone interview.

"This ruling proves that Sentosa was not engaged in any illegal practices. This proves that the complainants were not telling the truth when they said they were maltreated in violation of US laws. This means that the case is closed," he added.

Relamida said the case had been studied by the DOJ for about a year and the investigation was "very thorough," adding: "They took all our important records, including personnel and computer records, pertaining to all its employees in order to evaluate the complaints."

Topnotcher

The 26 Filipino health care workers, mostly nurses and physical therapists, had accused Sentosa of breach of contract, as they were assigned to work outside the scope specified in the contract.

Among the nurses is Elmer Jacinto, a medical doctor who topped the board exams in Manila but instead opted to go to the United States to work as a nurse for higher pay.

The other health care professionals are: Juliet Anilao, Harriet Avila, James Millena, Mark dela Cruz, Claudine Gamiao, Jennifer Lampa, Rizza Maulion, Maria Theresa Ramos and Rainer Sichon.

The issue reached political proportions when the complainants charged that the POEA recalled its initial suspension order against Sentosa at the behest of then Presidential chief of staff Michael Defensor.

POEA lifted the suspension and threw out unverified charges of labor malpractice alleged by the health care workers against Sentosa facilities in New York.

POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz, who said Defensor merely called her to inquire about the matter, said that as US immigrant visa holders, the complainants' rights were "amply protected by the host government from whom immediate redress can be secured."

Sentosa still has a pending case of illegal recruitment and contract substitution before the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

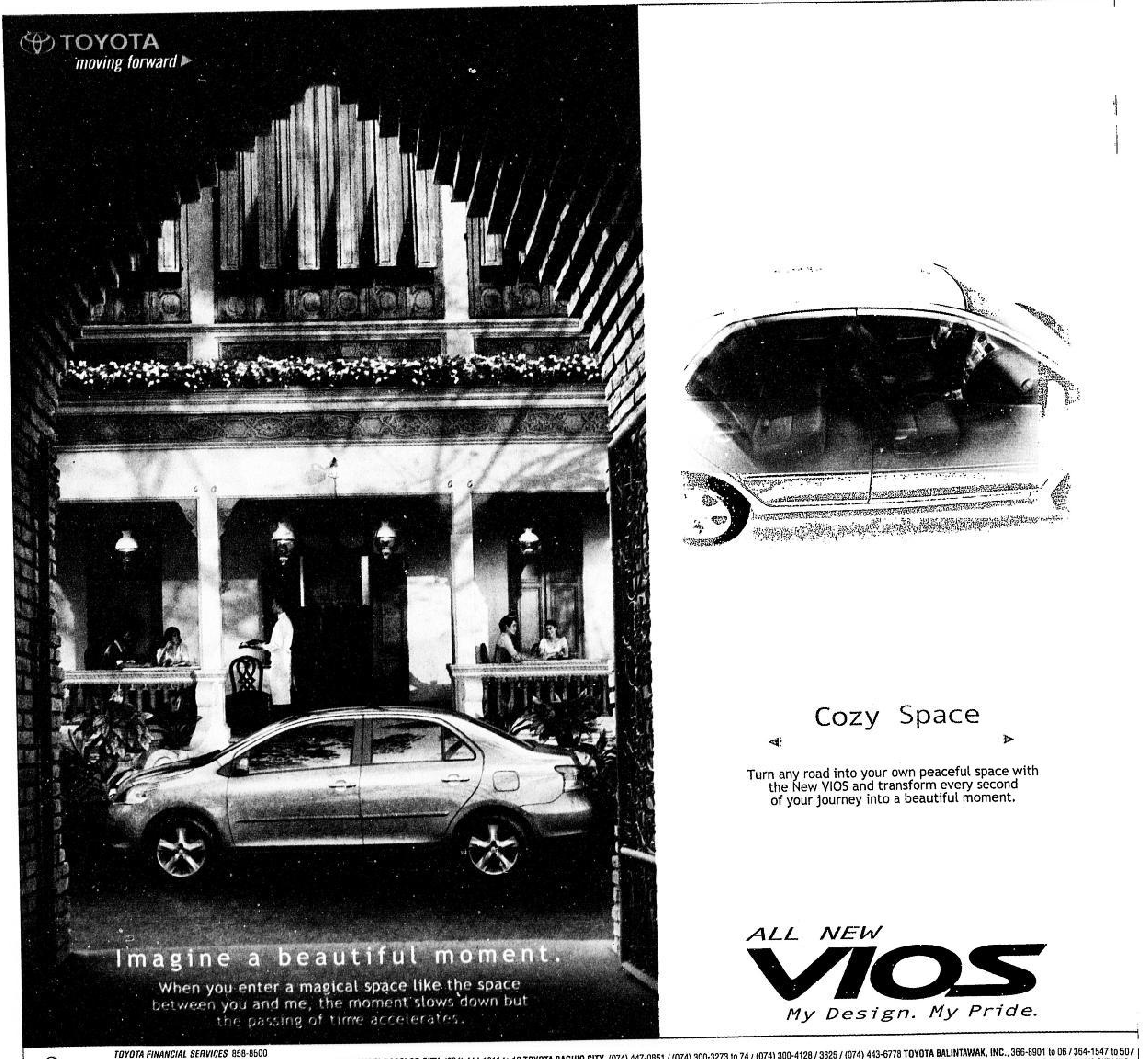
Baldoz said she was ready to rule on the case by August but had to delay coming out with the decision after she took a leave of absence due to the death of a family member.

Breach of contract?

The health care professionals, through their lawyer Felix Vinluan, filed the case at the US DOJ accusing Sentosa of breach of contract.

They were recruited from Manila by Sentosa Recruitment Agency. Both the recruitment agency and the network of nursing homes are owned by one person identified by Vinluan as Ben Philipson, who is chief operating officer and managing partner.

The nurses and PTs claimed they were made to work for a different facility other than the one mentioned in their contracts.



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[illegible] Kristeen Blanco Larger Than Life Leo Abaya Let Munson Lhaika Linda Floro [illegible]
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To everyone here and those we couldn't mention, maraming maraming salamat. Your Production House of the Year [illegible]

You want to sail? Be clean

By Margaux C. Ortiz

Hmmm! YOU'RE HIRED!

GOOD HYGIENE PAYS.

The Filipinos' love for taking baths has become an advantage for the country's seafarers in terms of job opportunities, according to a top official of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

"Filipinos are recognized for their exceptional hygiene and personal grooming," said Roger Peyuan, Tesda deputy director general for field operations, in a press conference at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) yesterday.

"This practice of ours has not escaped shipping companies who appreciate nice-smelling employees."

According to Peyuan, Filipinos are well-known for their cleanliness, "in contrast to other nationalities who do not prioritize every day personal hygiene."

Peyuan also said that aside from their grasp of the English language, Filipino seafarers were most sought after because of their humility and respectfulness.

"Filipino seafarers are also cool-headed and do not figure in many fights or brawls," the Tesda official said.

Peyuan noted that since 1987, the Philippines has been the leading supplier of seafarers in the international market. He said Filipinos account for almost 20 percent of the 1.23 million seafarers worldwide.

"However, not enough of our seamen are able to occupy the position of ship officers," Peyuan said, adding that most of the country's 300,000 seafarers lacked the qualifications for higher positions.

He urged seafarers to take up additional units in school when they come home for vacation.

Abu Sayyaf man linked to bomb expert nabbed

A MEMBER OF THE ABU Sayyaf terrorist group linked to Jemaah Islamiyah explosives expert Dulmatin has been arrested in Palawan, Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon announced yesterday.

Esperon identified the ASG member as Abu Mogera but did not give details of the arrest.

Abu Mogera was also implicated in the Dos Palmas kidnapping of foreign and local tourists in 2001, Esperon said.

He said the arrest was significant as Abu Mogera belonged to the terrorist cell of Dulmatin, one of the two suspects in the 2002 Bali bombing. Dulmatin and Omar Patek have reportedly been hiding in Sulu.

Esperon told reporters that Abu Mogera escaped from Sulu to Palawan "because of the pressure that we are applying there."

Nikko Dizon

DA grilled on P3-B irrigation funds

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MILITANT LAWMAKER YESterday questioned Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap over the purported release of at least P3 billion in irrigation funds during the campaign period for the May 2007 elections.

Speaking during the House budget deliberations, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said the funds were released in two batches—P500 million in January and P2.6 billion in March.

Glaring similarity

He noted its glaring similarity to the controversial release of fertilizer funds during the May 2004 elections. He was referring to the P2.8 billion fertilizer scam allegedly involving former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante.

"I hope this time in irrigation, it won't happen again," Ocampo said.

Yap, who attended the budget hearings to justify his department's proposed P25.9 billion budget for 2008, explained that the timing of the release of the funds was merely "coincidental" with the May 2007 elections.

Best time

"But that's really the period when we needed to repair (irrigation facilities) because there was no rain," he told the lawmaker. "The dry season is the best time to undertake all infrastructure repairs for irrigation."

Speaking to the Inquirer at the sidelines of the budget hearing, Danilo Ramos, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas secretary general, said the P500 million was a loan by the National Irrigation Authority.

The P2.6 billion came from the national appropriation this year, he said.

'Focus provinces'

Ramos showed a document purportedly showing that the P2.6 billion was intended for 37 "focus provinces."

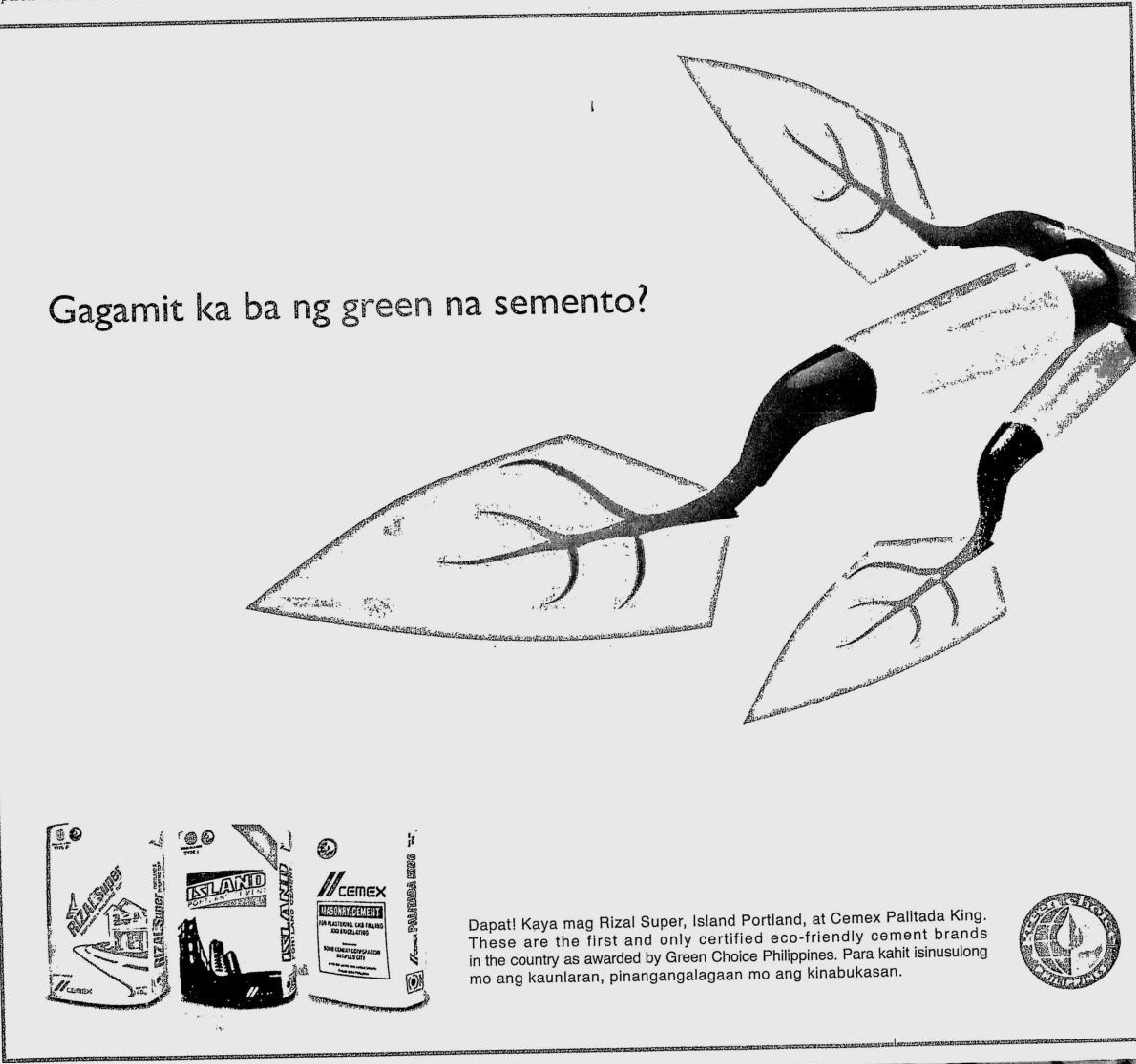
These include Kalinga, Pangasinan, Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac, Aurora, Quezon, Occidental and Oriental Mindoro, Albay, Camarines Sur, Capiz, Iloilo, Negros Occidental, and Bohol.

"There are basically two questions here," Ramos said. "Was the money really spent for the projects and how come it was released during the campaign period?"

Highlighted

The funding for irrigation was highlighted during the committee on appropriation deliberation, partly because it was also the priority of the proposed 2008 budget of the agriculture department.

The allocation for irrigation was increased from P7.4 billion this year to P8.8 billion next year, accounting for 44 percent of the total agriculture budget.



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AT EASE: An antiriot policeman guards the Equitable Building in Makati City where the Dutch Embassy is located during a rally staged by Joma Sison's supporters on Friday. REM ZAMORA

Erap asks for ma's blessing ...

From page A1

tant to him as he would be asking for his mother's blessing before the promulgation of the 6-year-old case.

After the visit to the hospital, he is to proceed to his residence on Polk Street in Greenhills to meet with his lawyers. He is under orders from the court to return to his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he has been under house arrest since 2001, at 5 p.m. on the same day.

"I am ready to face whatever the verdict will be. But at the same time, I still believe, and I feel, that I will be acquitted based on the merits of the case," Estrada coolly told the INQUIRER on the phone.

He said he had to cut the call short because he was watching the live TV coverage of the revived Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which suggested that President Macapagal-Arroyo rigged the 2004 presidential election.

Estrada's lawyer Rene Saguisag was not pleased with the Sandiganbayan's announcement, saying it was made on short notice.

'Stars against us'

"The alignment of the stars is against us. The entire system is against us," Saguisag said. He said Estrada's fate was decided on Jan. 20, 2001, when the majority of the Supreme Court justices went to Edsa to swear in the then Vice President Arroyo as President.

"We don't expect a lower court to tell the Supreme Court that it is wrong. Still, we are hoping against hope that the justices will see this case the way we see it," he said.

Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro chairs the Special Division; Associate Justices Francisco Villaruz Jr. and Diosdado Peralta are the members.

Saguisag also said he and the other defense lawyers had yet to discuss matters pertinent to the promulgation, which is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday with stringent rules imposed on media coverage.

125 max

According to the guidelines issued yesterday by Sandiganbayan Sheriff Ed Urieta, only one reporter per media organization will be allowed in the courtroom. The others will be accommodated in an adjacent room, where an audio system will be set up.

The number of people in the courtroom will be limited to 125, with journalists accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis, Urieta said.

He said his office would be open as early as 4 a.m. Wednesday to take reservations.

The Sheriff's office has also limited the invitees of the defense and prosecution camps to 20 each, excluding the families of the three accused.

But Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he was inviting around 30 people, including the original members of the prosecution panel.

No live coverage

Taking orders from the Supreme Court, Urieta said live coverage of the historic event would not be allowed. Still and video cameras will be banned from the Sandiganbayan building.

"These guidelines were also observed during the trial of Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith of the US Marines," Urieta pointed out. (Smith was convicted earlier this year of raping a Filipino woman while on shore leave at the Subic Bay Freeport in November 2005.)

Cell phones, tape recorders, even bottled water, will not be allowed in the courtroom.

Media personnel will also be barred from roaming the Sandiganbayan premises.

The strict rules did not sit well with photographers and a number of reporters, particularly those working in television networks.

Villa-Ignacio, the lead prosecutor in the plunder case, said the promulgation should be held at the Sandiganbayan auditorium on the sixth floor—which can hold 300 people—to allow live coverage.

"This is not an ordinary case," he said of the trial that ran from October 2001 to June 15.

Confident of conviction

Villa-Ignacio expressed confidence that the court would hand down a guilty verdict.

He said he could not imagine the court appreciating differently the evidence that the prosecution had presented.

"We have a very high confidence level that we will get a conviction," Villa-Ignacio told reporters.

He pointed out that the case had been upheld by the court through a denial of the defense's demurrer to evidence in 2004. He said the court had ruled that the evidence presented by the prosecution, unless sufficiently rebutted, was adequate even to convict Estrada.

Villa-Ignacio also noted that the court had likewise junked Estrada's motion for bail because the evidence against him was strong.

"And Estrada himself admitted signing the name 'Jose Velarde' on bank documents," he added.

In full battle gear

At Camp Crame, the Philippine National Police pronounced itself ready to secure Estrada on judgment day.

"We are already prepared as of now. We are fine-tuning the security requirements," Chief Supt. Romeo Hilomen, director of the Police Security and Protection Office, told reporters.

He added that he would assign some 150 policemen to serve as "close-in" security for the former President.

PNP Deputy Director General Reynaldo Varilla, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said he would deploy crowd management and security personnel around the Sandiganbayan two days before Sept. 12, or starting Monday.

Hilomen's deputy, Senior Supt. Paul Mascariñas, said Estrada's convoy from Tanay to the Sandiganbayan would be composed of around eight vehicles with some 50 policemen, including at least two teams from the elite PNP Special Action Force in full battle gear.

Hilomen said media vehicles would not be allowed to tail the convoy.

On the anticipated mass actions by Estrada partisans, Hilomen said his office was coordinating with the NCRPO, which would provide the bulk of the antiriot troops.

The PNP had earlier announced that 4,000 antiriot police would be deployed. The military's National Capital Region Command had committed 2,000 soldiers.

"We will allow rallies as long as they are peaceful and orderly, and there will be no law violated," The Associated Press quoted PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon as saying.

Hilomen said contingency plans were in place in the event of a serious threat to Estrada's life. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

A.M. No. 04-2-04-SC

Re: REVISED UPGRADING SCHEDULE OF THE LEGAL FEES IN THE SUPREME COURT AND THE LOWER COURTS UNDER RULE 141 OF THE RULES OF COURT

RESOLUTION

Acting on the proposed guidelines submitted by the Office of the Court Administrator pursuant to the Resolution dated July 3, 2007, the Court RESOLVED to:

(a) ADOPT the attached Guidelines in the Implementation of Section 1 of Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, as Amended;

(b) DIRECT the implementation of Section 1 of Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, as amended, in all collegiate courts and, as designated pilot-testing areas, all lower courts in the National Capital Judicial Region and in Cebu City, Mandaue City, and Lapu-Lapu City; and

(c) REQUIRE the Office of the Court Administrator to submit on or before December 10, 2007 a written report on the pilot-testing of the amended rule and its implementing guidelines.

Upon effectivity of this Resolution, all resolutions, orders and circulars of this Court, which are inconsistent therewith, are repealed or modified accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect on September 3, 2007.

August 28, 2007.

REYNATO S. PUNO
Chief Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

ANTONIO T. CARPIO
Associate Justice

MA. ALICIA AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ
Associate Justice

RENATO C. CORONA
Associate Justice

CONCHITA CARPIO MORALES
Associate Justice

ADOLFO S. AZCUNA
Associate Justice

DANTE O. TINGA
Associate Justice

MINITA V. CHICO-NAZARIO
Associate Justice

CANCIO C. GARCIA
Associate Justice

PRESBITERO J. VELASCO, JR.
Associate Justice

ANTONIO EDUARDO B. NACHURA
Associate Justice

RUBEN T. REYES
Associate Justice

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECTION 1 OF RULE 141 OF THE RULES OF COURT, AS AMENDED

Pursuant to the Resolution dated April 17, 2007 in A.M. No. 04-2-04-SC amending Section 1 of Rule 141 of the Rules of Court, the following guidelines for the payment of fees, its modes and effects are hereby adopted:

SECTION 1. *Payment of Fees.*- Upon filing of any initiatory pleading, all prescribed fees such as but not limited to filing fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund and Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund, and other fees accruing to the Legal Research Fund, Victim Compensation Fund and Mediation Fund, shall be paid in full, provided that, in petitions for rehabilitation under the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Governance, filing fees in excess of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) may be paid on a staggered basis, subject to the provisions of Section 2 hereof, in accordance with the schedule provided under the Resolution of the Court in A.M. No. 04-2-04-SC dated September 19, 2006.

SEC. 2. *Modes of Payment.*- The filing fees may be paid in cash or check, as follows:

(a) Cash Payment:
  (1) Fees not accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund or Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund such as but not limited to the Legal Research Fee, Victim Compensation Fee, Mediation Fee, and Cadastral Fee.
  (2) Initial deposit of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to defray actual travel expenses in the service of summons, subpoena and other court processes.

(b) Cash or Check Payment:
  (1) Fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or less.
  (2) Fees accruing to the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund amounting to Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) or less.

(c) Check Payment:
  (1) Fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).
  (2) Fees accruing to the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

Check payments may be in the form of personal, company or manager's check, provided that, if the amount exceeds Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), it shall be paid in manager's check.

SEC. 3. *When payment is made in check.*- All checks shall be crossed. No postdated, altered, or third-party check shall be accepted. Only checks in the account name of the lawyer (or law firm) or the party (individual or corporate) filing an action shall be accepted.

The fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund or the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund shall be paid in separate checks payable to the "SUPREME COURT, JUDICIARY DEVELOPMENT FUND ACCOUNT" or to the "SUPREME COURT, SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR THE JUDICIARY FUND ACCOUNT," respectively. The docket number, title of the case, and the court where the case was filed shall be indicated in the dorsal/back portion of the check.

The official receipts issued for payment by check shall be stamped with the following notation: "PAYMENT CREDITED ONLY UPON CHECK BEING CLEARED." The official receipts shall reflect accurately the name of the party on whose behalf the payment is made, the docket number and title of the case, the amount paid in words and in figures, the check number, the name of the bank and the branch where the checking account is maintained. The official receipt must be duly signed by the Clerk of Court. Pending clearance of the check, the Clerk of Court retains the official receipt and issues a certified true copy thereof to the payor.

SEC. 4. *When check is dishonored.*- Upon receipt of the notice of dishonor of the check from the depository bank by the Supreme Court, the Fiscal Management and Budget Office (FMBO) shall inform in writing the Clerk of Court concerned within five (5) days from receipt of the notice of dishonor. In multiple-sala courts, the Clerk of Court shall inform in writing the Branch Clerk of Court where the case was raffled of the dishonor of the check within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the notice.

The court shall forthwith issue an order dismissing the case, in consonance with Section 3 of Rule 17. Upon the dismissal of the case, the official receipt is automatically considered cancelled. No motion for reconsideration of the order of dismissal shall be entertained. The dismissal of the case shall be without prejudice to the filing of a case against the drawer of the dishonored check.

SEC. 5. *Duty of the Clerk of Court, Officer-in-Charge or Accountable Officer.*- The Clerk of Court, the Officer-in-Charge in the Office of the Clerk of Court, or the duly authorized accountable officer designated in writing shall strictly observe the procedural guidelines in the collection of fees accruing to the Judiciary Development Fund and the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund, provided under Amended Administrative Circular No. 35-2004 dated August 20, 2004.

SEC. 6. *Submission of Monthly Report.*- The Clerk of Court shall accomplish a Monthly Report of Dismissed Cases due to Dishonored Checks using Form LF-1 (a copy of which is hereto attached as Annex "A") to be submitted to the Accounting Division, Financial Management Office, Office of the Court Administrator within ten (10) days after the end of each month, attaching thereto the certified true copies of the following documents:

(a) cancelled official receipts;
(b) deposit slips;
(c) monthly report of collections and deposits of check; and
(d) court orders dismissing the case.

In the Cashbooks and Monthly Reports of the Judiciary Development Fund and the Special Allowance for the Judiciary Fund, two sub-columns bearing the headings "Checks Received" and "Cleared as of (date) " shall be added under the column of "Official Receipt/Remittance Advice."

SEC. 7. *Judicial Nature of Assessment and Collection of Docket Fees.*- Matters relating to the propriety and correctness of the assessment and collection of docket fees are judicial in nature and should only be determined by the regular courts, pursuant to the Resolution of the Court dated March 8, 2005 in A.M. No. 05-3-03-0.

SEC. 8. *Refund of Filing Fees.*- The refund of filing fees paid to the court on account of orders issued by the judges shall be referred to the Chief Justice through the Court Administrator, pursuant to the Resolution of the Court dated October 12, 2005 in A.M. No. 05-9-256-MeTC.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*- These Guidelines shall take effect on October 1, 2007 in designated areas as the Court, by resolution, may direct.

Strict compliance is hereby enjoined.

Issued this 28th day of August 2007

Military engineers due in Basilan today

MILITARY ENGINEERS FROM the Philippine Air Force (PAF) are expected to arrive in Basilan today after a roughly three-day trip by sea from Manila to embark on government's humanitarian mission there.

PAF chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino told reporters yesterday that engineering units from the Air Force and the Philippine Navy would stay in Basilan until they have completed a four-lane circumferential road in the province's southern towns.

The team, which left Manila on Wednesday, included a 60-man contingent from PAF's 355th Aviation Engineering Wing. The team brought with them heavy equipment, including bulldozers, payloaders and cargo trucks.

The Air Force also sent a 95-man security team from the Clark-based 710th Special Operations Wing (SPOW) to the project site via a C-130 plane.

"The idea is for our engineering unit to be self-sustaining. While our engineers are at work, the men from SPOW will provide security so that we won't have to ask ground forces there [from the Marines and the Army] to provide us security," said Tolentino.

Tolentino will join Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro in welcoming the crews.

The PAF chief said the engineering units would stay in a Marine camp near the project site, which spans some 82 kilometers of unpaved road through the towns of Tipo-Tipo, Sumisip and Lantawan, among others.

"Hopefully, something good will come out of this. We go there for government's humanitarian efforts, so that the people will know that Armed Forces is not there just to combat terrorists but also do humanitarian work," said Tolentino. *Tarra Quismundo*

PNPA sets admission test Oct. 28

THE PHILIPPINE National Police Academy (PNPA) that provides Cadetship Program for future police, fire and jail commissioned officers will administer its Annual Cadet Admission Test (CAT) for the four-year Bachelor of Science in Public Safety (BSPS) on Oct. 28, from 7 a.m. to 12 noon.

Applicants must be 18-22 years old single; male or female; at least high school graduate with good academic performance; and no derogatory record.

Application forms are available at PNPA; PPSC all units of PNP, BFP and BJMP. It can also be downloaded at www.pnpa.edu.ph or www.ppsc.gov.ph.

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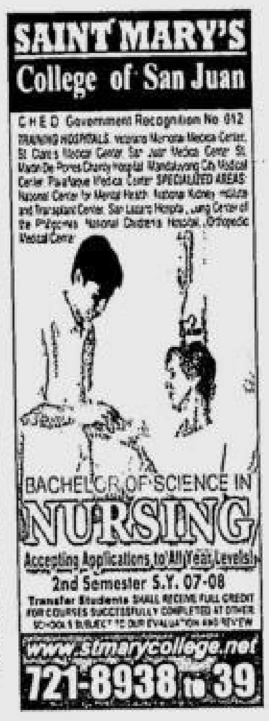

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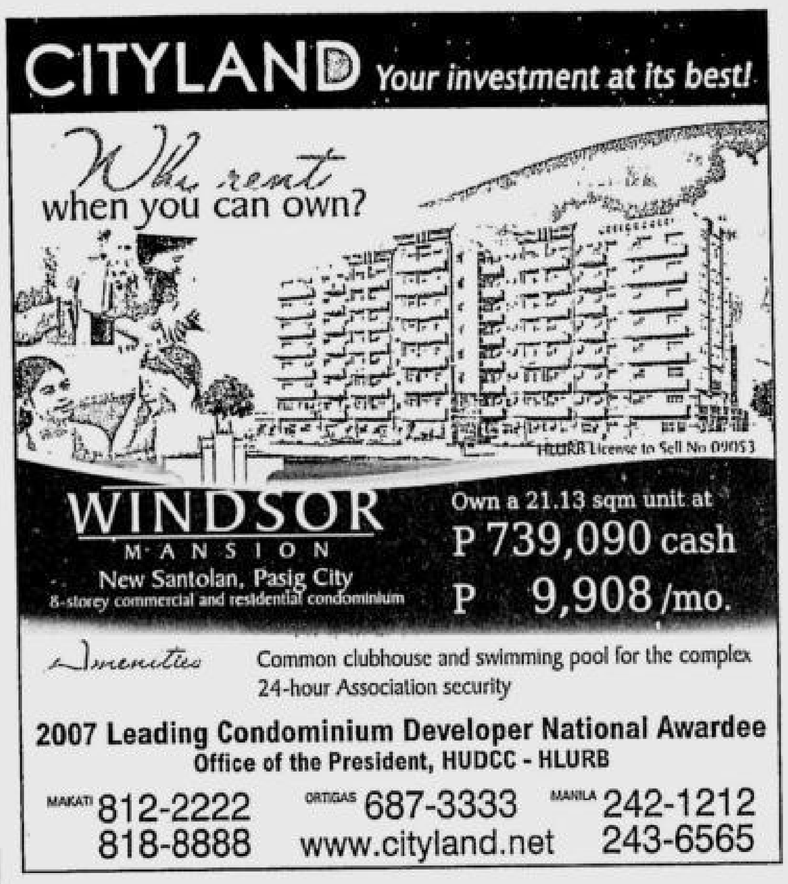

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(033) 337-3246; 337-3272; 335-0147
Fax No. (033) 336-6538

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following contracts:

Item No.	Qty.	Name of Contracts	Approved Budget for the Contract	Cost of Bid Documents (Non-Refundable)	Delivery Period Contract Duration
1	1 lot	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Pumping Equipment & Appurtenances for Four Pumping Stations	P3,718,000.00	P1,500.00	45 cds
2	1 lot	Supply and Delivery of Reconditioned Mechanical Backhoe (Short-Arm and Long-Arm)	P3,000,000.00	P1,500.00	30 cds
3	1 lot	Supply and Delivery of Reconditioned Water Truck	P1,200,000.00	P1,000.00	30 cds

Prospective bidders should have the experience in undertaking a similar contract within the last two years with an amount of 50% of the proposed contract for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted accordingly.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

Bid Documents and additional information may be obtained at the BAC Secretariat, Second Floor of the MIWD Building, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City.

The schedule of procurement activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement	September 3-9, 2007
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 10-17, 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	September 18, 2007, 2:00 PM
4. Deadline of Submission of Bids	October 1, 2007, 10:00 AM
5. Opening of Bids	October 1, 2007, 10:00 AM

The MIWD BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, declare a failure of bidding for any justified and reasonable ground, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by the BAC, is most advantageous to the District.

Approved by

(Sgd.) **MARY JEANNE M. VILLAGRACIA**
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 8, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Regional Office 6
Quintin Salas, Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 329-2165 / 320-6246
Fax No. (033) 3204764

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, Region 6, through its Corporate Budget for 2008 intends to apply the sum of *Twelve Million Eight Hundred Thirty Thousand Four Hundred Pesos Only (P12,830,400.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the provision of Security Services for CY 2008. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The **National Food Authority, Region 6** now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the provision of security services for its Regional/Provincial offices, owned and leased warehouses, other installations and facilities. Delivery of services is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2008. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process of eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **National Food Authority, Regional Office 6** and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below starting ***September 8 to 21, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The **National Food Authority** will hold a ***Pre-Bid Conference*** open to all interested parties on ***September 24, 2007 at 9:30 AM*** at the Iloilo Regional Office Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City.

Bid and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on ***October 9, 2007 not later than 9:30 A.M.*** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form or combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be bid
Cash, Cashier's/Manager's Check payable to NFA and issued by any reputable bank or	One Percent (1%)
Surety bond issued by GSIS marked"callable on demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on ***October 9, 2007 @ 9:30 A.M.*** at Iloilo Regional Office 6 Conference Room, 2/F, National Food Authority, Jaro, Iloilo City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The **National Food Authority** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA
Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 329-2165; 329-6307
Fax No. (033) 329-4764

(Sgd.) **VILMA H. ZARRAGA, MNSA**
BAC Chairperson/ARD

(PDI - September 8, 2007)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

sbma

Bldg. 255, Barryman St.,Subic Bay
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SBMA-BAC-INV-10-07
Tent Rental
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder items/services:

Items to Bid	Approved Budget Cost (ABC)
Tent Rental: Supply of materials, labor, tools, equipment and all other incidentals necessary for the installations, maintenance and removal of tent structure on rental basis including the following: a) Minimum of 39 sets of Halogen Floodlights or approved equivalent b) Minimum of 36 units 7.5 HP window type air-conditioning units or approved equivalent on scaffold framing at exterior c) Combination of ordinary plywood and other regular floor boards on 2" x 2" and/or 2" x 3" wood anchors as floor system for the entire area d) Sufficient generator(s), diesel supply, operators/technicians, cables, breakers and others as may be needed to operate as temporary power supply for the lighting fixtures and air-conditioning units that will be provided for on the four day event proper including one (1) day testing of air-conditioning units before the event.	P 5,000,000.00

Prospective bidders must be manufacturers or authorized distributors of the above-mentioned supplies and equipments for bidding, must have proof of completion of the delivery of the same and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use a non-discretionary "***pass/fail***" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*	*Venue*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 11 to 19, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 19, 2007 2:00 p.m. Tuesday	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.
3. Submission/ Opening of Bids	October 2, 2007, 2:00 p.m. Monday	Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of *P3,000.00* to the SBMA Treasury Dept., Bldg. 299, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 8 & 15, 2007)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

September 4, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 230kV Substation Equipment and its associated Control, Protection and Communication Equipment for Concepcion and Clark Substations (Sp07.CNCK.Lt-0104)

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO)**, through its **Annual Corporate Budget**, intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso 827,100,000.00** for the Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 230 kV Substation Equipment and its associated Control, Protection and Communication Equipment for Concepcion and Clark Substations (Sp07.CNCK.Lt-0104) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. **TRANSCO** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Furnishing, Delivering, Installing, Testing and Commissioning of 230 kV Substation Equipment and its associated Control, Protection and Communication Equipment for Concepcion and Clark Substations.** Delivery and Installation of the GOODS is required within **Five Hundred Forty (540) calendar days from contract effectivity.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 1B of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is open to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations, and to Foreign bidders. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine the bid's responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after the conduct of the post-qualification evaluation.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **TRANSCO** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address stated in Item 10 starting **September 10, 2007 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address stated below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of ***Philippine Peso 40,000.00.*** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. **TRANSCO** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **October 18, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at *C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the venue of the bid opening stated in Item 8 on or before **9:00 A.M. of November 9, 2007.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and in the amount specified in Section III of the Bidding Documents, BDS. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on **November 9, 2007, 9:00 A.M.** at *C.U. Del Rosario Conference Hall B & C, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.
9. **TRANSCO** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder/s.
10. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communciations should be addressed to the BAC Secretariat at the following address.

MR. R. D. NABONG
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department (BCMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, PHILIPPINES
Telephone Nos.: (632) 921-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Telefax No.: (632) 981-2308
Email Address: **rdnabong@transco.ph**
Website address: **http://www.transco.ph**

(Sgd.) **ATTY. NOEL Z. DE LEON**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 8 & 16, 2007)

Condoleezza cites RP successes in global campaign vs terrorism

By Cynthia D. Balana

UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF State Condoleezza Rice yesterday cited the Philippines' contributions to the global efforts to stop terrorism and reaffirmed the strong partnership between the two countries, the Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had a 30-minute one-on-one with Rice on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Ministerial Meeting in Sydney, Australia.

"Dr. Rice congratulated the Philippines for its continuing success in the campaign against terrorism and described Philippine-US partnership in counterterrorism as leading the way," said the DFA, quoting Romulo.

"This reaffirms both the Philippines and the United States' strong partnership and our willingness to expand our collaboration on key areas of counterterrorism and peace and development work," the foreign secretary said.

Romulo said Rice noted that both the US and the Philippines, "have made a good impact" in the war against terror.

For his part, Romulo stressed the value of sustained partnership in the achievement of greater stability and security in the Asia-Pacific region.

He said the Philippines and the US were seeking to further strengthen cooperation in counterterrorism and peace and development.

Soft/hard approach

During the meeting, both Romulo and Rice recognized the importance of strengthening the "soft approach" against terrorism and extremism, along with the "hard approach."

They both stressed the need to continue working together to break the back of international terrorism, and continue efforts to "win the minds and hearts of peoples against extremism which breeds terrorism."

Romulo said the US had been successful in innovative soft approaches with high impact for communities, particularly in Mindanao.

He also said that projects under the US Agency for International Development (USAID) which focus on health, education and infrastructure were important to bring lasting peace in Mindanao.

"With the sustained support of friends like the United States, we will continue to make significant headway," Romulo said.

GMA meet with Bush, US business execs canceled

From page A1

the sidelines of the summit.

It was something that the President was looking forward to, as she told an interviewer from "The Australian" newspaper in Manila before she left for Sydney.

The President's aides said a "pull-aside" meeting might still be pulled off today but Ms Arroyo said it was no longer necessary.

'I said everything I had to say'

"You know I said already everything that I have to say," she told reporters after the lunch.

She said Bush commended her on the Philippines' gains in the fight against terrorism and on the economic front.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo downplayed the last-minute cancellation of the meeting, which was apparently made upon the US request.

"They were talking all the time before and during [lunch] and they will talk again tomorrow. So the things that have to be talked about have been discussed," Romulo said.

At the luncheon, Bush invited all the Asean leaders, including an official from Burma (Myanmar), to Texas despite his increasingly sharp attacks on the Burmese military regime.

In recent days, Bush has branded Burma's leaders as "tyrannical" and their crackdown on pro-democracy activists and protests over fuel prices as "inexcusable" as US officials talked about "next steps" to pressure Rangoon.

"I invited the Asean leaders to Texas at their convenience. I'm looking forward to hosting you down there," said Bush, who reserves invitations to Texas as a diplomatic plum for close allies.

The Texas agenda

He said democracy promotion, the war on terrorism, trade expansion, avian flu, and climate change would be on the agenda for the talks, which could take place at his ranch or "another location" in Texas, an aide said.

White House national security spokesperson Gordon Johndroe later said all Asean heads of state and government had been invited, but Burma's "level of participation is to be determined."

Bush also announced that Washington would soon be naming an ambassador to Asean "so that we can make sure that the ties we've established over the past years remain firmly entrenched."

"Asean represents our fourth largest trading partner. In other words, this is a group of friends that represent more than just social acquaintances, you represent commerce and trade and prosperity," he said.

Romulo said the invitation was for the holding of the 30th anniversary of US-Asean relations in Texas, specifically in his father's library at the University of Texas and then to his ranch.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Bush's announcement came hours after he called on Apec leaders to pile pressure on the military rulers of Burma to free pro-democracy activists including Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and democracy icon who has been under house arrest for 11 of the past 17 years.

"We must press the regime in Burma to stop arresting and harassing and assaulting pro-democracy activists for organizing or participating in peaceful demonstrations," Bush said in his keynote speech.

Of the seven Asean leaders invited to the luncheon, only Ms Arroyo, Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, Thai Prime Minister Surayod Chulanont and Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong attended. Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam were represented by lower-ranked officials.

The President appeared unperturbed over the canceled meeting with Bush. Known to be averse to ambush interviews, she volunteered to talk to reporters covering her trip about her chat with Bush as she arrived for a meeting with leaders of the Filipino communities in Australia yesterday. She was accompanied by her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo and some members of the House of Representatives.

GMA not disappointed

Ambassador Marciano Paynor Jr., chief of presidential protocol, said Ms Arroyo was not disappointed.

"It doesn't matter whether you are seated or not as long as you talked," said Paynor who added a "pull-aside" meeting might take place today at the opening of the two-day Apec leaders' summit.

But Ms Arroyo said it would not be necessary since they had covered the issues they were supposed to discuss, Paynor said.

It was only when Bush started to leave after the lunch that Philippine officials knew the one-on-one was a no-go.

Paynor said "something came up" which required the cancellation of the 2 p.m. meeting. He said the one-on-one was "bracketed" as tentative in the US president's schedule. He said Bush's schedule was tight since he would be leaving today instead of Sunday when the Apec summit ends.

Praise from Bush

"One of the first things that Bush talked about [was] praising the Philippines' antiterror campaign. I said the US also has a share in the praise because of our strong partnership in the South," Ms Arroyo said.

"How's the economy doing?" she quoted Bush as asking. She told him about the 7.5-percent growth in the second quarter, the highest in decades.

"When he said that he would invite us to Texas, I said that's great because then I can visit Texas Instruments to thank them for the $1-billion investment in the Philippines," she said.

The President said Bush also said the US has plans to give aid for reforestation to the Philippines. But she said she wanted to ask instead for funds for roads in Basilan and Sulu and an airport in Jolo.

She said the Philippines has already asked New Zealand to channel its assistance to the Philippines to reforestation.

Voice of developing nations

As the Apec summit opens today to tackle climate change and other pressing regional issues, the President will be the leading voice of developing countries in asserting that richer nations do more in cutting greenhouse gas emissions to avert global warming, said Environment Secretary Lito Atienza.

He said Ms Arroyo would be voicing the position of majority of Apec members that the Kyoto Protocol, which imposes cuts on greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries but not on developing nations, should be followed in addressing climate change.

In a speech before the 5th Global Filipino Networking Convention yesterday, the President declared that "we [developing countries] are not the villain as far as climate change is concerned."

"Countries like the Philippines contribute less than one percent of the world greenhouse gas emissions so we are not a villain as far as climate change is concerned," Ms Arroyo said.

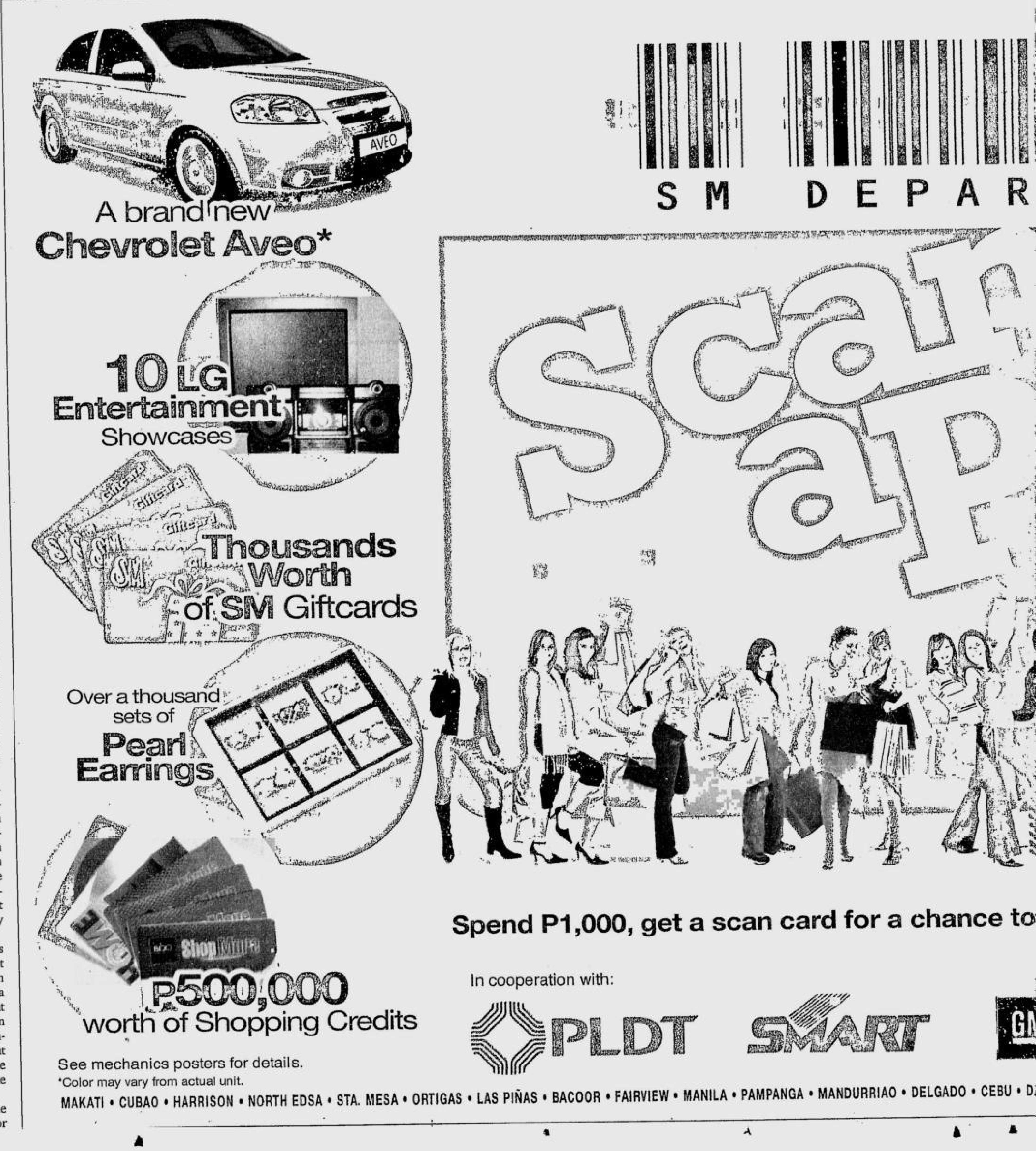
Australia, backed by the US, has proposed a new approach which calls on developing countries to also cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

Australian approval

The Australian proposal veers away from the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty which calls on industrialized nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5 percent from their 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012.

The Kyoto Protocol, an amendment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, does not impose reductions on developing countries.

The US and Australia, among the countries with the biggest greenhouse gas emissions, have signed the Kyoto Protocol but have not ratified it.



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Palace lawyer to Abalos …

From page A1

work (NBN) project to a Chinese company.

Apostol said Mendoza's and Abalos' unholy "silence" was only fueling conspiracy and other theories that could undermine the Arroyo administration.

Betraying some impatience with the two officials, Apostol said President Macapagal-Arroyo has been unfairly dragged into the mess by Mendoza's unwarranted silence.

Reached by phone in Leyte, Apostol said Mendoza was "the person who should be the one answering" all the allegations, including the alleged role played by Abalos and the alleged P250-million attempt to bribe former Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri.

"He's the one faulted, but he chose to say nothing," Apostol said.

Heads to roll?

"He [Mendoza] should come out openly. He's quiet, refusing to speak on the matter. Why don't you ask him if he has become mute?" he said.

But the Palace lawyer said Ms Arroyo would take action, hinting that heads would roll.

"She's holding her action. If she takes action immediately, that will be misinterpreted because of so many investigations [going on now]," he said without elaborating.

"She must be waiting for something," he said.

Apostol said the President may also be waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court on the petition filed by Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico seeking to scrap the ZTE deal for being unconstitutional.

"[That] should clear the air, so no sense in taking action [now]," he said. But should the high court rule against the deal, Apostol said the President "should take action already."

Apostol said it was for Abalos and Mendoza to ascertain whether a resignation was in order.

The Makati Business Club and four other business groups called on Abalos to resign in a paid advertisement titled, "A Growing Culture of Impunity," which came out in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER. *(Story on Page A1.)*

"It's up to Abalos. Anyway, that one is addressed to Abalos," Apostol said.

Apostol also refused to comment on other points raised in the ad, including support for a Senate inquiry and full disclosure of the details of the $330-million ZTE contract to implement the government's national broadband network project.

"Actually, it's hard to issue a comment on that because they will again come up with a paid ad attacking me instead," he said.

Ask Mendoza

As for the demand to "rescind" the contract, Apostol said: "That question is better asked to Mendoza."

It was Apostol who told the INQUIRER last month that legally speaking, there was no contract to speak of between the Chinese-based ZTE Corp. and the Department of Transportation and Communication since the documents signed in the presence of Ms Arroyo on April 21 in Hainan, China, were stolen.

Apostol said the contracts for the NBN and the Cyber Education Program, which were signed the same day, did not pass through his office for legal scrutiny because the documents went missing.

The DOTC later said that the contracts had been reconstituted.

"How can I say that there's a contract when I have not seen it?" Apostol said yesterday.

No media briefing

Since the NBN controversy erupted last month, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita has been telling reporters that they should direct their questions to Mendoza, saying the NBN deal was "his (Mendoza's) baby."

Mendoza came out with a paid ad instead, defending the project. He has refused to brief the media on the controversy, which recently spilled over to the House of Representatives.

However, Apostol said he had heard that Mendoza would be answering the questions either in Congress or the courts in two weeks' time.

DOST broadband system uses existing telecoms

SCIENCE SECRETARY ESTRELLA Alabastro said that based on the experience of the Department of Science and Technology, maintaining a national broadband network can be done even without foreign funding and a multimillion-dollar contract.

Alabastro, who is one of the department's information technology experts, said the DOST has been maintaining a national broadband system using existing telecommunications infrastructure and paying for it with funds from its modest budget.

Alabastro said the DOST's Philippine Research Education and General Information Network (Preginet), which connects 80 research and development institutions all over the country, has been in operation for several years now. The cost of the Preginet was P5.2 billion.

She said the department sought approval for overseas development assistance for its project in 2001 from the National Economic and Development Authority. However, the Neda did not approve their proposal so "we went ahead with the project and funded this locally," Alabastro said.

Alabastro was speaking at a House committee on appropriations hearing on the DOST budget proposal for 2008.

Asked by Rep. Roilo Golez if the DOST was ever consulted by the DOTC about the NBN project, Alabastro said: "I have never seen that contract." *Norman Bordadora*

5 Big Business groups seek Abalos …

From page A1

Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Foundation for Economic Freedom Inc. and Action for Economic Reforms said they were "appalled that the culture of impunity among government officials appears to have spread to an extent exceeding that of all past administrations."

"A glaring example is that of Comelec Chairman Benjamin Abalos who had no business in allowing himself to be entertained by officials of ZTE Corporation, a potential contractor of the Republic, particularly considering he had an important electoral exercise to administer. His indiscreet conduct and absence from his official duties could only have happened if he believed he was immune from sanctions. We therefore reiterate our call for Chairman Abalos to resign," the business groups said.

Abalos has been accused of allegedly helping to broker the $330-million broadband deal with China-based ZTE Corp. by connecting key Cabinet officials like Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza with executives of the Chinese company.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is the initiator of the NBN project which aims to build a backbone to interconnect the telephone, cellular and Internet services of all government offices.

But the business groups said the government should get its hands off the national broadband network project, saying business is better left alone and in the hands of the private sector.

They also urged Mendoza to immediately rescind the contract with ZTE.

No transparency

The business groups called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to take immediate action to rectify the blatant wrongdoing of public officials, "lest she be accused of condoning them."

Abalos, however, shrugged off calls for his resignation, saying the business groups have no grounds for such a call since he has done nothing wrong.

"Why. What action have I committed? On what ground? Just because they are saying I brokered (the deal)," Abalos asked.

MBC executive director Alberto A. Lim said the business groups issued the joint statement because they wanted to uphold transparency and good governance.

The statement came out as a paid ad in yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER.

Lim said the deal with ZTE "clearly lacks transparency [as] there was no bidding."

"This is a sign that there is no level playing field," he said.

"What is more, the NBN contract is lost or appears to be lost. We do not even know if there was a design for the project because some say there is none," Lim said in a phone interview.

If there was no project design on which to base the contract price, then the quoted $330 million was even more questionable, he said.

Gov't not following law

Moreover, the government is muscling in on a telecommunications service project, which is something that the private sector should be providing, Lim said.

"We have a law that discourages government from doing what the business sector should be doing. The government is not following the law," in the NBN case, he said.

According to Lim, the proper way would have been to let the private sector build the NBN through the build-operate-transfer scheme, and to let them choose their own technology.

"Let us not be [a too-willing conduit for] China's recycling of its excess foreign exchange reserves like what the Arabs do with their petro dollars," Lim said.

Lim said the need for an NBN was questionable in the first place. He said it would only cause over-capacity as there already are two existing telecommunications backbones—that of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and of the Telecom Infrastructure Corp. of the Phils., a consortium of PLDT's rivals.

"Either way, an NBN would only mean rising costs for consumers in terms of higher prices for the recovery of costs and in taxes for the payment of a loan that would fund the project," Lim said.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Mendoza for his comments on the business groups' demand for the ZTE contract to be rescinded, but both his mobile phones were unreachable. Text messages went unanswered as well.

Calls and text messages to DOTC Assistant Secretary Lorenzo Formoso's mobile phone also went unanswered, as were messages to the department's public affairs personnel.

The House of Representatives has adopted the rules on impeachment, partly in anticipation of the possible filing of an impeachment case against Abalos.

The rules adopted last Tuesday were the same ones used during the two failed impeachment cases filed against President Arroyo in the previous Congress. *With reports from Daxim L. Lucas, Beverly T. Trinidad and Christian V. Esguerra*

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Worsening stink

EDITORIAL

THE CHINESE COMPANY THAT BAGGED THE CONtract to build the $329 million national broadband network (NBN) for the Philippine government says it has nothing to hide. "There was complete transparency in the proposal, evaluation and approval of ZTE's application for the Philippines' NBN contract," the company said in a statement issued earlier this week.

Transparency, however, is the last word that comes to the mind of anyone who has followed the controversy as it has slowly unfolded since the contract was signed in April this year. Up to now, Filipino taxpayers know little about the NBN contract beyond the fact that they will be paying close to P1 billion a year for over 20 years for a project that may not be necessary and which the government is ill-equipped to operate and maintain, according to two economics professor from the University of the Philippines. Everything that the Filipino people know so far is either what ZTE's competitors have revealed or what the media have extracted bit by bit from government officials. At one point, Cabinet officials even tried to mislead the public by denying that a contract had already been concluded and claiming that what was signed in Boao, China, last April was either a memorandum of agreement or a memorandum of understanding. More is probably known about the negotiations and how top officials, like Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, allegedly helped broker the deal and tried to hush up ZTE's unhappy competitors for the project, or got bribe offers amounting to hundreds of millions of pesos.

But a contract does exist and it was signed and sealed in the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo in China. And what it says and what it does not say probably explain why the Arroyo administration wanted to keep it under wraps.

One interesting item in the contract, for example, gives the two parties plenty—even unlimited—elbow room to adjust the price. It says: "The Priced Bill of Quantities shall be revised in accordance with the actual requirement to be determined and approved by the purchaser and the contractor during the detailed engineering stage." In other words, the $329 million contract price, which is already too much, according to ZTE's rivals, can still go higher. Could this be the reason the government signed a $400-million loan, so that it will have an extra $71 million to cover what is called a "change order"? This is a ploy often used to jack up the price so that greedy officials can get more from an already graft-ridden project.

What is even more unusual is that the contract does not say exactly what the government will be getting for $329 million. The scope of work is left undefined. The contract merely says that ZTE "shall prepare and complete the detailed engineering services, the plans, specifications and designs" for the government's approval. If there are no plans, no specification and no designs, what is the government committing to pay $329 million for?

Only an idiot would pay for a car without knowing what kind of engine he is getting or how many passengers it can take, but that is not much different from what the administration is doing in regard to the NBN project. The only difference is that it is not the signatory, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, or the witness, President Arroyo, who will be stuck with the bill, but the Filipino people. And the administration would not even want them to know what they will be paying for. It wants the people to take on blind faith that the project is necessary and the terms of the contract are the best anyone can get. Thus, it has gone ahead and signed the contract without opening the project to public bidding. And the excuse it is giving is that this is a government-to-government transaction.

That is true of the loan agreement signed last week in Manila. It is not the case with the supply agreement with ZTE, unless that company has declared its independence from China.

A growing number of lawmakers have been calling for the abrogation of the contract, and the investigation of everyone involved in it. The business community has voiced a similar demand. Now that the onerous details of this funny contract are becoming known, there is even more reason to trash it. The stink is just too much for anyone to ignore.

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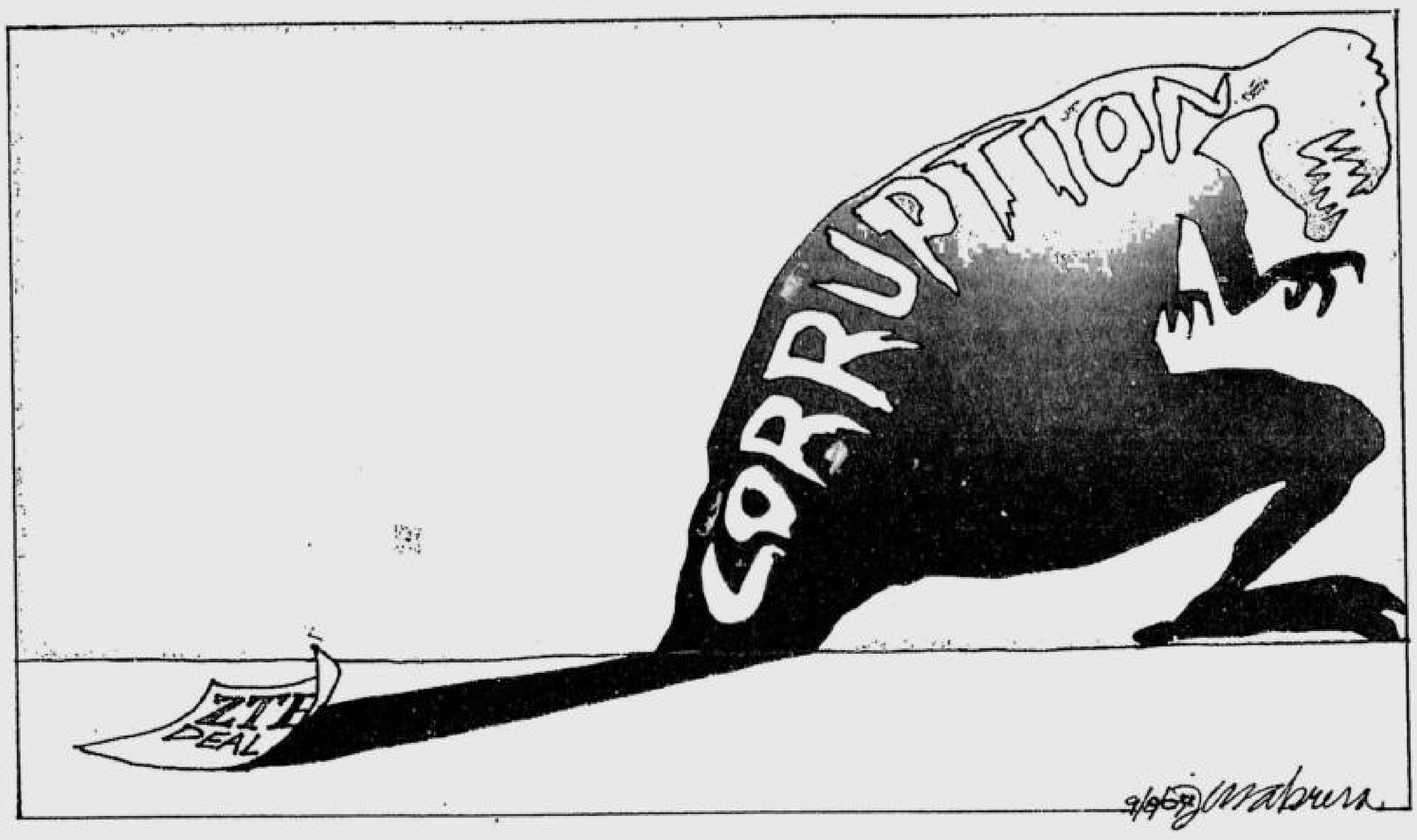


Motorcycle exclusions

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I DROVE A motorcycle on the expressway. It was 1967, and the new North Diversion Road (as it was then called) was almost finished, although it had not yet officially opened. I realized then that some motorcycles are made for open highways, while others do better on city roads. The concept of "limited access highways" was new in our country.

In 1968, the Department of Public Works and Communications issued AO No. 1, which, among other things, prohibited motorcycles on limited access highways, putting them in the same league as bicycles and pedicabs. This was contrary to the practice in most countries. The ban is based on the unexamined belief that motorcycles pose a greater danger than motorcars to the free flow of traffic on expressways.

Many years have passed, and, even as cars are getting smaller, the new bikes that are being produced are not only getting bigger and faster, but also more stable and maneuverable. The science that has gone into the crafting of these high-performance machines necessitates a new way of driving. The power they pack imposes great responsibilities on their owners. In many countries, a license to drive such machines is issued only after the completion of a special riding course.

In July 2001, the Department of Public Works and Highways issued DO No. 123, allowing motorbikes with at least 400cc engine displacement access to the expressways. This new policy was prompted by a Makati court's grant of a preliminary injunction on a petition seeking the lifting of the ban, which had been filed earlier by bikers James Mirasol, Richard Santiago and the Luzon Motorcyclists Federation Inc.

Encouraged by this new policy, I bought my first big bike, a Ducati Monster S4, with an engine capacity of 916cc, one month after the ban was lifted. I've been riding almost every weekend ever since, using either the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) or the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) as access routes to the rest of this beautiful country.

But something happened to the world of motorcycling that was not foreseen. Taiwan, South Korea and China entered the scene as motorcycle manufacturers, churning out light motorbikes that were being sold at incredibly low prices. This compelled the Japanese producers that had traditionally supplied the bikes for the local tricycle market to come up with comparable models at competitive prices. The rise in overseas workers' remittances in the past decade greatly stimulated the demand, and the availability of easy installment schemes changed the whole configuration of the market. In an instant, this chain of events democratized motorcycling as a hobby.

Today there are more than three million registered motorcycles in the country. Organized as associations of sporting enthusiasts, their owners constitute a formidable force. I remember being approached by a fellow rider whose beautiful modified "underbone" had caught my attention. In the course of our conversation, he brought up the idea of putting up a party-list group for motorcyclists. What would be our main advocacy, I asked. Well, he said, for one—the right of equal access to the expressways. Of course, he added, eyeing my Ducati, you don't have this problem. But why, he pressed on, testing my democratic credentials, should the highways be for the exclusive use of the rich big bikers? He had a point.

I was going to build a case justifying the selective lifting of the ban, but lowering the minimum engine displacement requirement to maybe 250cc. I started to tell him that going on full-throttle speed to keep within the speed range of expressways could subject small engines and narrow tires to the risk of blow-ups. But my friend was in no mood to listen to a discourse on the concept of expressways and the rationality they embody.

I suddenly became aware that a simple distinction based on engine displacement had quietly acquired a class undertone. The big bike is no longer just a heavy machine; it has become a signifier of social exclusion. The unverbalized resentment that this breeds may sometimes be felt in the awkward social distance that segregates big bikers from the small "underbone" riders in gas stations where they congregate for their Sunday rides. There is an easy camaraderie among big bikers that is symbolized by the quick friendly wave on the road, but I have to admit this is not something customarily given to fellow riders on underbones.

The original petition filed by Mirasol, Santiago and the LMFI had sought the total removal of all motorcycles from the list of vehicles to be excluded from the expressways. Ironically, it was the big bikers who became the sole beneficiaries when the DPWH amended its rules allowing motorbikes with at least 400cc displacement access to the freeways. This was like rubbing salt on an open wound.

In June 2003, the Makati RTC ruled with finality against the petition. The judge restored the ban on all motorcycles, regardless of engine displacement. The case found its way to the Supreme Court. In a fascinating decision penned by Justice Antonio Carpio last year, the Court took an unexpected route, partially granting the petition by annulling some department orders that had been issued, but upholding the legality of the original ban against motorcycles on expressways under Administrative Order No. 1. The Court refused to be drawn into a discussion of the rational use of expressways and why motorcyclists can be responsible users of these roads. Instead, in one fell swoop, it flattened all motorcycle distinctions and democratized expressway exclusion.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Treated like dirt

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

TWO OF THE MANY ASSERTIONS GSIS president Winston Garcia made during our conversation last week at the INQUIRER offices were that: (1) the eCard Plus was voluntary—a member or a pensioner didn't have to get it if he/she already had an eCard (which apparently expires only in 2008); and (2) the cash advances for discretionary expenses that he received for the period were liquidated not only by official certifications from him that the money was spent for official purposes, but also by receipts contained in sealed envelopes that were submitted to the GSIS' resident COA auditor.

Well, after the story of that meeting came out in last Sunday's INQUIRER, I received another avalanche of comments/replies/complaints. This time, not only from active members, pensioners and their friends and relatives, but from GSIS employees themselves, as well as from Leonor Boado, the lawyer who supervised the COA Special Audit Team (SAT) formed to look into the complaints lodged against the GSIS management as well as those reported in the press.

The GSIS employees, all but one of whom identified themselves, asked that I withhold their names because of fear of reprisal. I am informed that those who dare to complain against Garcia have been removed one way or another. In fact, one long-time GSIS employee called me to say that they suspect that their offices are bugged, because when they complain among themselves, the complainants are always caught (shades of martial law), and ultimately get punished supposedly for some unrelated infraction. But they have provided very detailed information to show that the problems of the GSIS are not just "glitches" but are systemic in nature, and more importantly, to show how pensioners and active members alike have suffered, and continue to suffer, from the incompetence or shortcomings of the GSIS and, by affinity, Union Bank. They also dispute the assertion by Garcia that "the human infrastructure at GSIS sucks."

But I digress. Let's go back to the assertions and subject them to some scrutiny.

The first assertion is disputed by a GSIS employee. Here's what he says: "The No eCard Plus, No Pension Policy was implemented last Jan. 2, 2007." Which means that while Garcia may have been technically correct that an eCard Plus was not mandatory, that assurance is cold comfort when one's pension is not released without it. His are weaseling words.

But that may not be all. Here is a description of the horrors that a pensioner says they have to go through as a result of that policy: "Since its abrupt implementation, all old-age pensioners from Metro Manila, the provinces of Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, Romblon, Batanes and Coron, Palawan, (all under the jurisdiction of the head office), and even those living in provinces outside the head office jurisdiction, such as Batangas, Bataan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Bicol (because during the first three months, from December 2006 to February 2007, only the head office had the facility to enroll/issue the eCard Plus), have to enroll for an eCard Plus, causing great financial and physical inconvenience specially to those who are incapacitated/bedridden. This caused a sort of 'panic' on the part of pensioners because failure to enroll would mean that they would not receive their meager pension. Once in the enrollment area, they would have to fall in line for hours because of the influx of enrollees. Some of them would have to stave off hunger because they only have money for their fare and a few of them have to borrow money from some of the employees because they only bought one-way fares, thinking that they can get their pension once they come to the office. There was even one incident when a pensioner died while waiting in line. Sources say that the GSIS has already 'settled' the matter because the heirs have already kept quiet about the incident."

Maybe the GSIS employee who wrote this is lying, but judging from the rest of his letter, and the wealth of detail he provides, plus his recommendations on how to make the system better for the pensioners, it is difficult to doubt his sincerity.

With regard to Garcia's second assertion—that his discretionary expenditures were backed up by "sealed" receipts submitted to the resident COA auditor—it does not appear to stand closer scrutiny. Recall that the SAT found that "Examination of the liquidation vouchers disclosed that the disbursement of funds made by PGM Garcia were merely supported by a CERTIFICATION to the effect that the amount have been incurred for purposes contemplated under the laws/regulations..." which is one of the reasons the team recommended disallowing the expenditures. (The vouchers were supplied by the GSIS' COA resident auditor, GSIS having refused to cooperate with the SAT.)

What is significant is that in its formal comment to the SAT finding, the GSIS did not mention anywhere that there were receipts backing up the liquidation, sealed or unsealed. The GSIS just insisted that a **certification** was sufficient. Moreover, it is difficult to believe that the resident COA auditor would deliberately withhold such significant evidence in the first place, or would continue to remain silent in the face of the SAT findings.

What's the bottom line? Now, more evidence has surfaced that the GSIS has been treating its pensioners (not only a "few") like dirt. And that Winston, to put it kindly, uses weasel words.

Measuring happiness and freedom

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

YES, HAPPINESS CAN BE MEASURED. A PERsonal quality having recognizable degrees—such as "very happy" or "unhappy"—is certainly measurable.

The desirability of measuring something matters first of all. I admit that my willpower on sticking to a diet is low, and I realize a need to raise it, yet I do not care to see my willpower measured.

The conceptual and practical difficulties of measuring something are secondary. Anything important enough to warrant scientific study needs measurement. Lack of an easy way to measure it is a challenge.

Thus, in the 1989 conference on how to develop a measure of economic freedom, did professor Milton Friedman stress a tradition of social scientists at the University of Chicago: "If you can't measure it, measure it anyway."

Happiness. SWS did 14 national surveys on happiness between 1991 and 2006. The latest round, in November 2006, found 39 percent of adult Filipinos "Very Happy," 45 percent "Fairly Happy," 14 percent "Not Very Happy," and 3 percent "Not At All Happy."

In Tagalog we have used *"talagang masaya," "medyo masaya," "hindi masyadong masaya,"* and *"talagang hindi masaya."* With this four-point scale, conventional in other countries, it is normal to take the upper two categories as the Happy and the lower two categories as the Unhappy.

Incidentally, the percentages Happy in some countries are: Canada 96, Singapore 95, Indonesia 94, United States 93, Vietnam 91, Korea 88, Philippines 88, Japan 86, and China 78, from the World Values Survey circa 2001. This is neither bad news nor good news. Doing well on any measure compared to other countries is not as important as doing better on the same measure compared to the past.

But the time-trend for Happy Filipinos is flat. The percentage Happy in November 2006 was the same as the 84 in the very first survey in July 1991. It ranged between 76 percent in August 2005 and 92 percent in April 1996. With three scores in the 70's, 10 in the 80's, and one in the 90's, I simply observe that being happy has not been difficult for most Filipinos.

Happiness in November 2006 was 7 points higher among ABC's compared to E's, and 9 points higher among college graduates compared to elementary school leavers. It was 6 points higher among rural than urban people; otherwise it did not differ by area. It was about the same for men and women.

But with age, unfortunately, happiness goes downhill all the way—in November 2006, from 91 percent in ages 18-25, to 77 percent in ages 55+. Earlier surveys found happiness lowest among old widows and widowers. Thus the odds of being happy rise, a little bit, if one: finishes college, lives on a farm, stays youthful, and gets to heaven ahead of one's spouse.

Happiness is personal, not social. Happiness can neither be begrudged to anyone, nor promised to everyone. A government properly targets, not elimination of unhappiness, but eradication of poverty. As a social issue, hurting not only the poor themselves but also society as a whole, poverty deserves more measurement work than unhappiness does.

The "pursuit of happiness" is in the American Declaration of Independence, not in ours. Our Constitution says it aims, among other things, for **"a just and humane society** [with] the blessings of independence and democracy under the **rule of law** and a regime of **truth, freedom, love, equality, and peace."** These are all concepts whose challenge for measurement can, in time, be met.

* * *

Economic freedom. Last Tuesday, the Philippine edition of the 2007 Annual Report of the Economic Freedom of the World (EFW), published by the Fraser Institute (of Canada), was launched by the Foundation for Economic Freedom together with the Center for Research and Communication and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Philippines.

The 2007 EFW Report is dedicated to the memory of Milton Friedman, author of **"Free to Choose,"** who inspired the economic freedom project and was involved in it until his death last November. I had the privilege of being his student in Chicago in 1965-70.

Milton Friedman: "For many of us, freedom—economic, political, civil—is an end in itself, not a means to other ends—it is what makes life worthwhile ... [Nonetheless] I believe that free societies have risen and persisted only because economic freedom is so much more productive than other methods of controlling economic activity."

The key ingredients of economic freedom are personal choice, voluntary exchange, freedom to compete, and the protection of persons and property. In my opinion the measures in the report are quite good for international comparisons, but should go into more aspects of economic freedom in the Philippines.

On a scale of 0 to 10, the new Philippine value (2005) of the Economic Freedom Index is 6.6, tied for 69th among 141 countries. The top scorer was Hong Kong (8.9) and the bottom scorer, Zimbabwe (2.9). The Philippine index was already 7.1 in 1995 and 2000, but, unfortunately, declined to 6.3-6.6 in succeeding years.

For a copy of the Philippine edition of the 2007 EFW Report, write the Foundation for Economic Freedom through Ellen Cain at ecscain@yahoo.com, or the Friedrich Naumann Foundation at liberal@philippines.fnst.org. All data in the report, as well as data omitted for lack of space, are freely downloadable at www.freetheworld.com.

* * *

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Mentoring the Mentors: the Bukidnon experience

COMMENTARY

Eden C. Omboy, Ph.D.

DR. GLORIA BENIGNO, THE DYNAMIC DEPARTment of Education schools division superintendent of Bukidnon has this wonderful personal motto: "Make a difference."

Benigno and I met by chance in the summer of 2006. She told me then that she was looking for a program "that would empower all her 300 school administrators." As the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's regional coordinator for Mindanao, I offered our Mentoring the Mentors Program (MMP). We finalized arrangements, and then it was off to Bukidnon.

Dr. Eve Mejillano, the MMP national coordinator, assembled a team of master educators to run two Bukidnon sessions. Among them were Dr. Celia Adriano and Dr. Sol Francisco from the University of the Philippines and Helen Deguma. Adriano is UP assistant vice president for academic affairs and director of the Institute for Interactive Learning, while Francisco holds a doctorate in language teaching. Deguma is a principal from DepEd Iloilo.

The Bukidnon sessions ended with a commitment toward quality education from the school administrators.

Last May, Benigno invited us back to Bukidnon to see how her administrators were faring. This was fortuitous because Chinit Rufino, Mentoring the Mentors program director, wanted to know if the seeds of education reform that we had sown were beginning to bear fruit. An evaluation visit was very timely indeed.

Armed with a monitoring design that included focused group discussions and school visits, we arrived at Malaybalay on Aug. 3. We were joined by FWWPP president Dr. Maria "Butchie" Lim Ayuyao.

The improvements were immediately evident, starting with the office of the superintendent. Construction of a two-story training center was almost finished, with computer-equipped staff cubicles ready for use.

We divided the administrators into four FGD groups, each facilitated by a member of the MMP Monitoring Team.

The good news we heard from every focus group was that almost all schools saw significant increments in their National Achievement Test aggregate mean percentage scores compared to last year. Some schools even won division and region level achievement awards.

The focus groups then verbalized the barriers they met in the course of their drive toward education quality and how they attempted to surmount these. Almost all the administrators faced teacher behavior issues ranging from negative attitude, resistance to change, indifference, tardiness, absenteeism and the like.

The administrators said the MMP interactive modules on Attitudinal Change (more popularly known as "Kambio sa Pananaw"), Building Relationships through positive feedback and Servant Leadership greatly helped them address these critical issues.

On the second day, we visited schools to see for ourselves if Mentoring the Mentors indeed had taken root at this level. Dr. Celia Adriano was with me when we went to Kalasungay, Sumpong and Aglayan elementary schools and Bangcud National High School. I met with the principals while she visited the classrooms and talked with the teachers and pupils.

The principals' warmth to us was evidently genuine. Bangcud National High School's principal, Amparo Bautista, has consistently demonstrated instructional leadership. In fact, she was named Most Outstanding Principal of the Division of Bukidnon for SY 2005-2006.

Noel Tan Nery of Kalasungay, Romel Jabonero of Sumpong and Virgilio Namoc of Aglayan were newly assigned principals. They talked of how difficult it was, at first, to deal with the teachers, but with the fresh approaches they discovered through Mentoring the Mentors, they succeeded in galvanizing their teachers' efforts toward consistent and sustained quality education.

Jabonero showed dramatic success. I can personally attest to the fact that Sumpong Elementary School badly needed a facelift at the very least because we conducted the MMP training in its unfinished building last summer. But empowered with a newfound vision, Jabonero got the teachers, pupils and community working together and as one, they transformed the rundown, muddy school that I saw last year to the Most Outstanding Child-Friendly School in Malaybalay City for 2007.

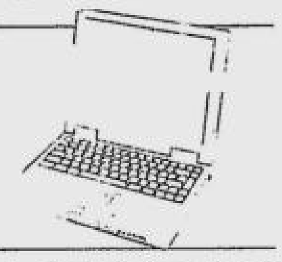
Namoc guided Aglayan Elementary School from a miserly 52 percent in last year's NAT to 72 percent this year. He directly attributes this success to Adriano's discussion on Active Teaching and Learning Strategies. He organized an innovative Reading Training Program for the parents of incoming Grade 1 pupils last summer. The program was so successful that this school year, all Grade 1 pupils already know how to read.

In his book "Make a Life Not Just a Living," Dr. Ron Jenson identified 10 non-negotiable principles that will enable an individual to be truly successful and to make his life full. One of them is, "Achieve personal significance." What you see about yourself is what you will be. To recognize your significance, you need to see that you are special. To appreciate your significance, you need to understand that you can make a difference.

Gloria Benigno and her administrators have truly made a difference in the lives of all school children in Bukidnon.

Dr. Eden C. Omboy recently retired as DepEd schools division superintendent of Butuan City. She now coordinates the FWWPP's Mentoring the Mentors Program in Mindanao.

Mikey's alleged degree; the PNP race



BETWEEN DEADLINES

NOT ON OUR LIST. PERHAPS PARAÑAQUE REP. Eduardo Zialcita was misinformed? Several weeks ago, he defended the House majority's choice of the President's eldest son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, as chair of the important committee on energy: "We believe that he is competent, responsible and honest ... He's qualified for the job." And then he cited Mikey's master's degree in business from the University of California at Berkeley as a badge of competence.

A Filipino in California decided to do some sleuthing. She shared the results of her research in two e-mails, which eventually found their way to this writer. "I called the Haas Business School ... on campus to verify his MBA and spoke to an admin assistant named Sandy Charfauros ... She can't find anyone named Juan Miguel Arroyo on their alumni files and I don't have a class year for him. I'm still checking with her because maybe his name here was Macapagal," she wrote in the first one.

Several hours later, our intrepid correspondent wrote again: "Just spoke with Sandy ... at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business and she doesn't have any alumni records for either Juan Miguel Arroyo or Juan Miguel Macapagal. I asked about the possibility of the graduate diploma not being equivalent to an MBA but she just doesn't have anyone by those names on file at the Business School."

Ah. Business unusual. *J. Nery*

* * *

ROLE REVERSAL IN SORSOGON. After the election of the new officers of the Bicol Regional Peace and Order Council, the newly elected chair, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, asked representatives of government agencies and the private sector if they had any problem or concern to raise.

Col. Muhammad Nur Askalani, commander of the Philippine Army's 901st Infantry Brigade based in Villa Hermosa, Daraga, Albay, said he had one. He said some local government executives do not seem to understand that they play an important role in the fight against the insurgency or, worse, that they are a part of government. He mentioned one lady mayor in Sorsogon, who complained about being always caught in the fight between the Armed Forces and the New People's Army.

The brigade commander, whose area of responsibility is Albay and Sorsogon, recalled telling the local chief executive: "But, madam, are you not part of the government whose big problem now is insurgency and therefore have a big role in fighting the rebels? We are just your servant, madam." *E. Aguilar*

* * *

THIS IS A RACE? Surprisingly, the race to replace Director General Oscar Calderon as chief, PNP has been a civil affair, quite unlike the bitter contests of the past.

Civil, except for an incident several months ago. According to some officers in Camp Crame, one top police official (let's call him A) made a bold attempt to try and convince Malacañang to choose him. Banking on his provincial ties to two powerful Cabinet men, A frequented Palace halls and even suggested that Calderon be retired early.

On hearing about his rival's move, however, the other candidate (let's call him B) made his own trip to Malacañang and, according to sources, told the President that he was waiting and ready to take hold of the PNP's reins.

Since then, the two officers, classmates at the Philippine Military Academy, have been studiously civil. Serious mud has yet to be flung, for now at least.

Incidentally, a senior officer told the INQUIRER there was a possibility a dark horse could emerge and actually win the race. "For as long as the successor of General Calderon is not sitting in the chair of the chief, PNP, no one is assured of victory." *A. Pupa*

* * *

MIGZ'S LAST-MINUTE CALL. After last month's National Security Council meeting, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. delivered a privilege speech (his second since the 14th Congress opened), based in part on the briefing he heard at the NSC meeting. Pimentel remarked he was somewhat surprised to be invited to that morning's meeting, and said it was his first time to step foot in Malacañang since his falling out with President Macapagal-Arroyo some years ago.

Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri promptly interpellated Pimentel. The former Bukidnon congressman, closely identified with the administration, said he would have wanted to attend the NSC meeting since the agenda concerned Mindanao. "However I was just informed this morning," Zubiri said, smiling self-consciously. *D. Pazzibugan*

* * *

BLAST FROM THE PAST. From the Sept. 2, 1987 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer:

The Left has again suffered a setback in the aftermath of the bloody coup attempt staged [on Aug. 28, 1987] by the rebellious Honasan boys. On the same day that guns were being fired against innocent civilians, three ideologically opposed leftist groups—Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Bansang Nagkakaisa sa Diwa at Layunin (Bandila) and Bukluran sa Ikauunlad ng Sosyalistang Isip at Gawa (Bisig)—met to discuss unified courses of action to prevent a military takeover.

What did the meeting achieve? Another of those ideological skirmishes common in the leftist movement. Bayan firmly refused to give all-out support to the beleaguered Aquino government which it accused of having shown its fascist character; Bandila insisted on giving President Cory the mass movement's unconditional support; Bisig opted for conditional support, that is, encouraging the government's liberal policies and condemning its reactionary tendencies. They were unanimous [on] only one common point: that civilian authority is supreme over the military. We should keep in mind to count our blessings often.

Days of gloom

YOUNG BLOOD

Kenneth P. Pornasdoro

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I GREW UP IN A SMALL TOWN AS A TYPICAL, ADVENTURous kid. There was almost nothing I was afraid of—of death, yes, but not of cockroaches, strangers, lightning or thunder, and definitely not typhoons.

In fact, I was fascinated by typhoons. My eyes used to open wider at the sight of the late Ernie Baron pointing to a big mass of swirling clouds moving directly toward our country. And when the typhoon finally struck at our place, I enjoyed watching the trees swaying from afar. The natural movement of those trees against the raging wind reminded me of the graceful routines of gymnasts deserving of a perfect 10 rating. Thus as a kid, I rejoiced over announcements that classes were suspended.

My memories of my childhood include my experiences with such deadly typhoons as "Naneng" and "Rosing" which left quite a mess in Quezon Province where I grew up. "Naneng" caused an ankle-deep flood in one of our classrooms, a very big deal for the private school that I attended. "Rosing" ripped off our neighbor's roof and I saw it fly over our own house. Both typhoons brought howling winds into our house. They also cooled the place making it fun to stay in bed the whole day if possible. If it weren't for the lack of electricity and the flying roofs outside, typhoon days would have been perfect days for me.

Years after "Naneng" and "Rosing" struck, I moved to the big city for my higher education. Both physically and mentally, I am much different from the adventurous little kid who lived in the province. I have become more aware of the things happening in the world and how they affect me and the people around me. I still am not afraid of the same things, but I have learned to respect nature and its awesome forces.

Late in September, supertyphoon "Milenyo" struck the country. The satellite images of the supertyphoon still held a fascination for me, but after the carnage it caused, I finally understood why my parents were not exactly pleased when their own kids cheered as soon as they heard that classes were being cancelled because of the weather. Now I realize that with a typhoon coming, more things will be lost than gained. To feel happy over the cancellation of classes while knowing that thousand of hectares upon hectares of rice fields will be flattened doesn't make sense to me now. I cannot sleep soundly in my bed while the tenants who till those rice fields are worried sick about their crops. I can almost feel their pain when months of planting and tending their farms under the heat of the sun go to waste as their crops turn into dead weeds in puddles of mud.

I saw these things back home when I was still young and innocent, but it is only now that I have come to understand what those images really mean to the farmers.

To think that most of my relatives live on farming. An attempt to create a family tree for a history class told me that my grandparents, both on my father's and my mother's side, were dependent on farming. What bad weather meant to them were incomprehensible to a kid, but I think I know better now.

I now respect typhoons. I can't help regard with awe their power and strength and what they can do to me and to everyone. My hometown was lucky to be spared the disaster that happened to Infanta and Real. Watching documentaries and TV specials of the aftermath forced me to ask questions like "What happened?" followed swiftly by "What can I do?" And whereas before I would pray that the typhoons spare our house, now I include my hometown and the entire country in my prayers.

I had just learned to say that prayer for two months, when "Reming" came. I was overcome with fear when weather forecasters said it would be like "Milenyo" all over again. I'm not a kid anymore, and I knew what to expect from such a powerful supertyphoon.

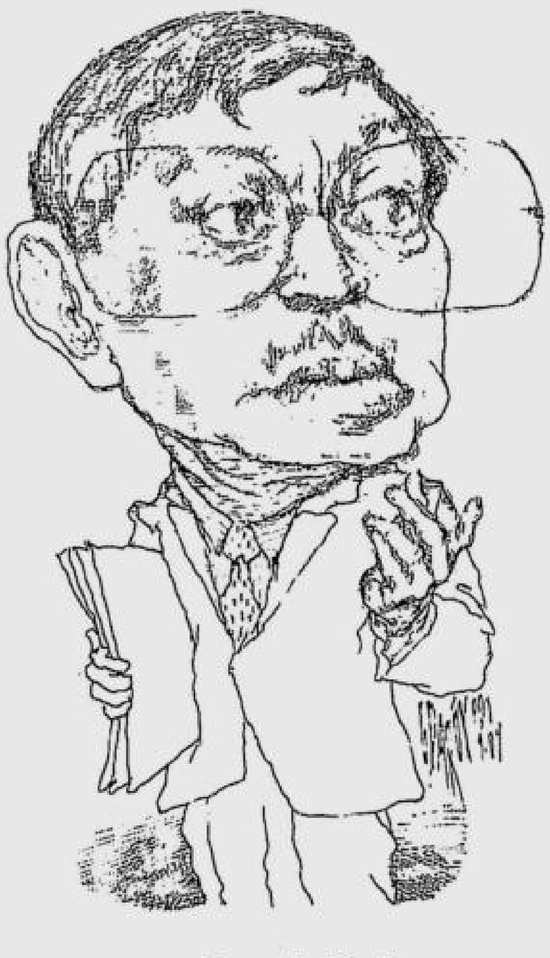
But apparently my college friends didn't. The official announcement that classes were being called off and the anticipation of having a long weekend brought smiles to their faces. I suppose deep in themselves they remain children who love the thrills of the gloomy, typhoon days and enjoy days off from school.

Kenneth P. Pornasdoro, 20, is a 5th year BS industrial engineering student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



Romulo Neri

Can't AFP tell enemy casualties?

AS A FATHER OF SIX BOYS WHO already have their own families, my heart bled upon reading that 15 more Marines died in battle against the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. (INQUIRER, 8/19/07) I sympathize with the fathers of those slain soldiers, young as they were to die in defense of freedom, democracy and their loved ones.

But with almost 31 soldiers killed in a little more than a month of fighting terrorists, I smell something wrong in the chain of command. I can't believe that, up to the present, AFP officials cannot determine how many of the enemies have been killed in battle in the past two months. They can only surmise.

To quote former Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz in his Aug. 18 column titled, "The feeble Armed Forces of the Philippines": "They are exhibiting the proud virtues of patriotism and gallantry that Rizal and his compatriots at the turn of the century, Wenceslao Vinzons and his fellow guerrillas during the Japanese Occupation, Ninoy Aquino and his peers who resisted the Marcos dictatorship, and the nameless ordinary soldiers fighting in the bloody barricades of war against the despoilers of our land, unselfishly offered as their heroic oblation against tyranny for the rest of people to consecrate and emulate." (INQUIRER, 8/19/07) I agree with his observation.

There is an urgent need to dismantle the obsolete chain of command in order to weed out those who may have already outlived their usefulness. It's high time that we gave the "young Turks" or junior officers command responsibility, a principle still fresh in their minds. Or, shall we say that an all-out war is a very necessary evil—to make sure the military gets a big slice of next year's P1.13-trillion national budget, which is soon to be deliberated by the 14th Congress?

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
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Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte 4600

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PHILIPPINE DAILY LETTERS INQUIRER

Grateful for news on Sibuyan mining

I WAS VERY GLAD TO SEE THAT the controversy over the mining operation in Sibuyan was given space in the Sept. 3 issue of the INQUIRER. ("Group wants large-scale mining banned from Sibuyan island")

I hope this will help stop mining which only serves the personal interests of individuals who use and abuse their power and influence to get what they want.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank the INQUIRER. I hope our environmental concerns will be heard and attended to by the government.

—CLEOFE AGUSTIN,
macleofe957@msn.com

Violence in a field of lofty ideals

ANOTHER LIFE HAS BEEN claimed by what is widely perceived to be fraternity-related violence. Another life has been snuffed out by men claiming to be brothers, yet inflicting pain like beasts. Another life has been sacrificed, killed by a senseless ritual that degrades humanity.

It is ironic that our University of the Philippines, hailed as the country's best educational institution, can be the same place where the nation's best hopes end; the same place that breeds students who inflict pain on—or maim, or even kill—their fellows, all in the name of brotherhood.

It is absurd that barbaric acts are committed there, side by side with the university's lofty ideals—an aberration that escapes our comprehension. Worst of all, it is the same place where, after the indignation and the din of protests fade, "fraternity deaths" become another statistic in the vicious cycle of campus violence; and forgetfulness and tolerance replace outrage, until another victim falls.

We are one with Cris Anthony Mendez's family in their grief. Cris' death is not just their loss; it is also ours, his fellow *Iskolars para sa Bayan* and members of the UP community. His death is also the nation's loss; every scholar who is killed is a country's hope lost.

We vow not to forget, as we vow to seek justice. The UP administration and the country's justice system must see to it that those behind Cris' senseless death pay for their crime. More importantly, we vow not to let our indignation turn into tolerance. Enough of frat violence. Let this death be the last.

—MICHAEL DAVID LOPEZ,
VIKTOR FONTANILLA,
UP Alyansa ng mga Mag-aaral
para sa Panlipunang
Katwiran at Kaunlaran,
up.alyansa@gmail.com

Pall Mall didn't get special favor—DOF

MAY I RESPECTFULLY RESPOND TO A grossly erroneous column. I specifically refer to Conrado Banal III's column on the ruling of the Department of Finance on the tax classification of the locally manufactured Pall Mall cigarettes. The insinuation that certain officials have acted in a way that benefits a particular manufacturer is truly off the mark, and the allegation is grossly unfair to government executives working hard to make things right.

Let me be specific. Firstly, Banal stated that the government "does everything, including bending the rules, to give this vice merchant BAT lucrative tax breaks." The DOF simply applied the law to the established facts. The Bureau of Internal Revenue itself conducted a price survey on Dec. 22, 2006, which resulted in a finding that the applicable excise tax rate is P6.35 (now P6.74) per pack. This price survey is required both by law and by BIR regulations. The DOF ruling speaks for itself.

Secondly, Banal stated that a finance undersecretary reduced the Pall Mall excise tax from P26 to P6.35 per pack, and that he is the same finance undersecretary who initially pegged the proper excise tax rate the BIR used on Pall Mall. This misleads. The legal fact is that the reduction was dictated by the outcome of the BIR price survey conducted in accordance with Sec. 145 of the Tax Code precisely to determine the tax classification of the local Pall Mall brands. With the results of the price survey, the DOF could not have ruled otherwise. At no time was the excise tax rate in point initially pegged by the DOF or by any finance undersecretary.

Thirdly, Banal asserted that the "BIR was kept in the dark all the time." This is a deliberate lie. The BIR was "never kept in the dark."

- The BIR participated in the discussions with the DOF that resulted in the call for a price survey on Oct. 18, 2006 to resolve the tax classification issue.
- The BIR conducted the price survey as mandated by law, the outcome of which determined the proper excise tax rate, because the BIR itself, through former Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag, issued the ruling on Pall Mall's tax classification and transmitted to the DOF the records of the case for a review of his ruling.
- It was the former BIR commissioner himself who informed the DOF, in an official letter dated June 13, 2007, of the official results of the Dec. 22, 2006 survey, six months after it was done, after having failed to even mention it in his appealed ruling of Feb. 22, 2007.

Finally, Banal alleged that the DOF ruling "is still a secret." This is not true. The ruling is a public and official document. It is easy to see that; even Banal has a copy of the ruling. It has been and still is the object of his deeply motivated arguments.

In sum, the matter could have been clarified early on, had Banal only bothered to check his facts by contacting this department for additional information, facts and figures.

—GAUDENCIO A. MENDOZA JR.,
undersecretary,
Legal and Revenue Operations Group,
Department of Finance, Manila

* * *

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARTICLE OF Michelle V. Remo on the Pall Mall case (INQUIRER, 9/3/07), I wish to categorically state for the record that I never recommended a lower tax for Pall Mall. The letter of June 13, 2007, which Finance Secretary Margarito Teves was referring to, was a factual report on the survey (conducted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue per instructions of the Department of Finance), which cannot in any way be construed as a recommendation. That letter was in response to the DOF's request for a formal report on the survey.

The BIR's position was: a survey was not necessary in the first place and could not prevail over the much higher selling price at the Duty Free Shop where the tax of P25 per pack was being paid. Under the circumstances, even if the survey indicated a lower tax, the higher tax should continue to be collected because a downward classification was prohibited by law.

I am sending this rejoinder for the clarification of all concerned and the public.

—JOSE MARIO C. BUÑAG,
former commissioner,
Bureau of Internal Revenue

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Govs want barangay polls postponed

By Carla P. Gomez and Joey Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRY'S governors favored the postponement of the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said that an informal vote taken during a meeting of the League of Provinces of the Philippines in Manila Thursday, however, showed that most governors want the two elections moved from Oct. 29 this year to May next year, not in May 2009 as proposed by a consolidated bill approved by the Lower House Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms.

But while the governors wanted the elections held next year, it was more likely they would be held in October since there was not enough time to change the schedule, he said.

The Leyte provincial board also supported the postponement because of the huge cost of holding the two elections, estimated at P2 billion.

Provincial board member Enrico Albao, provincial president of Leyte's Association of Barangay Chairmen, said it would not be financially wise to conduct two elections in the same year, with the mid-term elections just held in May.

Leyte Vice Gov. Mimiette Bagulaya also favored the postponement. "Let us give our people a respite from the elections fever," she said.

The Commission on Elections has issued Resolution No. 8264 enumerating the calendar of activities in relation to the Oct. 29 elections, which among others, declared that the election period would start on Sept. 29 and end on Nov. 13.

The filing of certificates of candidacy begins on Oct. 11 up to Oct. 19. The campaign period starts on Oct. 20 and to end on Oct. 27.

A Comelec official in Leyte said the provincial board's resolution was "most unfair" to the Comelec, which has spent money for the latest voters' registration.

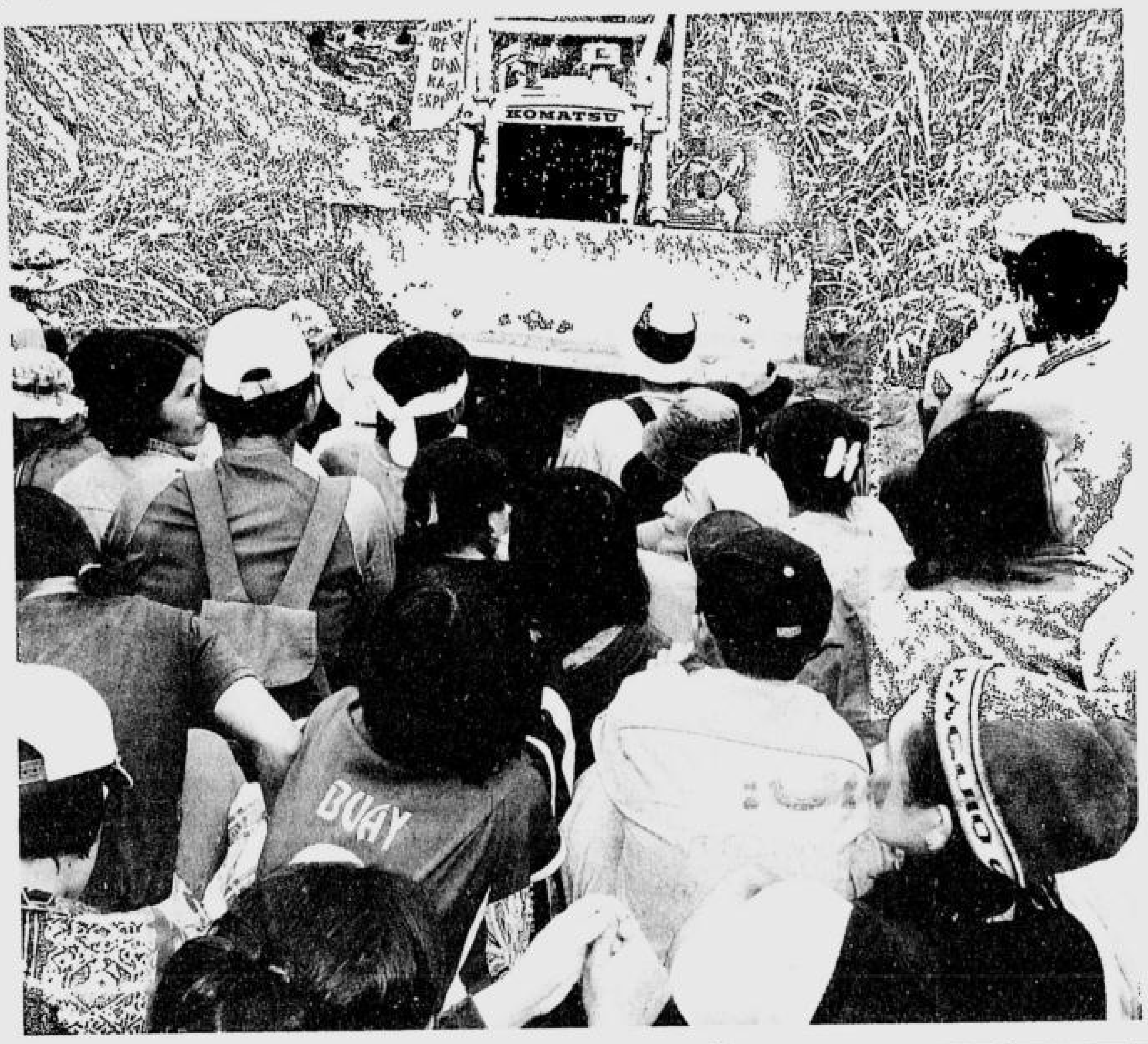
"They should have passed this resolution, as well as that bill approved by the House of Representatives before we conducted registrations for new voters," the official who asked not to be named said.

The official noted that the barangay and SK polls have already been postponed twice. The last time the country held the barangay elections was on July 15, 2002. The winners were supposed to step down in 2005 but the election that year was reset to this year due to budgetary constraints.

In Davao City, Gabriela Rep. Luz Ilagan on Thursday warned that postponing the barangay elections to 2009 would be tantamount to disenfranchising millions of voters while allowing corrupt officials to extend their time in power.

"Postponing the elections for almost two years is tantamount to disenfranchising millions of voters. This denies them their right to replace erring barangay officials through an electoral exercise and trivializes the barangay elections," she said.

Ilagan, who refused to sign the report of the House committee on suffrage on the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections, said she also wanted to know who would really benefit from the postponement. *With a report from Jeffrey M. Tupas, Mindanao Bureau*



PEOPLE POWER Not even a giant bulldozer can stop these tribal men and women in Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya from showing their strong opposition to the entry of a foreign mining in their community. They sit in the middle of the mountain road, stopping the machine on its path. Mining operations in the area were met with stiff resistance that was supported by the Church. MELVIN GASCON/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

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ROUNDUP

4 killed in Cagayan ambush

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A businessman and three of his family members were killed when they were ambushed by armed men in Solana, Cagayan, on Aug. 27.

Cagayan police director Senior Supt. Pedro Danguilan said Nicolas Sumbali, 51, and his family members were aboard a van and on their way home at 9:30 a.m. when the suspects, armed with Armalite rifles, attacked them in Barangay Pag-asa in Solana. Sumbali, his wife Cecilia; his son Alex, 17; and his cousin Melanio Obido were instantly killed.

Danguilan said the police have filed murder charges against five suspects, whom he declined to identify.
Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Old man found dead

HAGONOY, Davao del Sur—An old man, who was believed to have been swept by flood waters, was found dead beside the Leling River here on Aug. 27.

Security guards of the Davao Fruit Joint Ventures found the man's body around 6 a.m. according to PO3 Gil Arobo, investigator of the Hagonoy police.

Arobo said they were verifying if the victim, estimated to be over 70 years old, was the same man reported missing at the height of the flash flood that hit Matanao town last week. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Medical service

DIGOS CITY—At least 200 villagers of Malita, Davao del Sur availed themselves of free services for prostate problems and kidney problems during a medical mission on Saturday.

The mission was carried out by the Philippine Urological Association, which was celebrating its 50th foundation anniversary. The PUA brought in 14 urologists to examine the villagers.

Dr. Alvin Cabreira, PUA prostate committee chair, said their group has been providing free examination and surgical services around the country for the past two years. *Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

Couple robbed of P370,000

DIGOS CITY—Robbers took P370,000 in cash from a couple, who had just withdrawn money from a bank on Aug. 27.

Couple Casimiro Ballar and Nicanora of Padada, Davao del Sur, were walking along Vicente Sotto Street here after withdrawing P370,000 from the Philippine National Bank when two armed men, who were riding in a motorcycle, suddenly blocked their path.

One of the suspects fired a warning shot when the couple tried to resist. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

Motorcycle thief nabbed

MALITA, Davao del Sur—Police here arrested a suspected thief and recovered a stolen motorcycle from his possession.

Senior Insp. Nasrudin Tayuan, Malita police chief, said they received reports that a stolen motorcycle from Davao City was brought here and was being used as "habal-habal" (single passenger motorcycle).

He said on Aug. 25, they launched an operation and spotted the motorcycle in the possession of Glen Moda Arañas, 27.

Arañas initially tried to evade the police but he was later caught, Tayuan said.

The motorcycle recovered from Arañas was a Kawasaki Aura belonging to a resident of Davao City.

Tayuan said they learned that Arañas' brother-in-law, Edwin Cawade, 23, drove the motorcycle in Davao City but later stole it. Cawade is now being hunted down. *Eldie Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao*

4 more WWII bombs found in Laguna

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Two days after eight vintage bombs were recovered from a construction site inside a school in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, four other World War II bombs were discovered in a residential area along a national highway in Alaminos town on Thursday, police said Friday.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., Laguna police director, said personnel of the Explosives and Ordnance Division of the Laguna police retrieved two 155 mm projectile explosives and two 250-pound aerial bombs from a private property in Barangay 2, Alaminos.

He said before the recovery of the explosives, a resident called the local police station at around 11 a.m. and asked their assistance after he noticed black smoke coming from the area where a house is being constructed.

Rojas said it was still unclear if the supposed black smoke came from one of the bombs.

He, however, said that it took eight hours before the bomb experts safely removed the vintage explosives from the site. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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'Folk school' helps kids read better

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

A NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION IN NEGROS OCCIdental has helped thousands of public school pupils regain self-esteem and confidence through improved reading skills.

The Eskwelahan sang Katawhan Negros Inc. (Eskan), known as Folk School of Negros Occidental, has been helping pupils in 590 public elementary schools in the Division of Negros Occidental.

Sugar Regulatory Administration chief Rafael Coscolluela, Eskan board chair and managing trustee, said their work is now also being replicated by some local governments in Iloilo, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Maguindanao.

The key to Eskan's success is getting school officials, pupils, parents, barangay officials, local governments and local firms involved in improving education in their areas, he said.

Coscolluela said that when they started Eskan, six pupils shared one book.

Eskan decided to tap local DepEd scholars to produce the workbooks to improve pupils' reading skills, he said.

That is because reading triggers everything else—it gives them the self-esteem and confidence to learn more in other subjects as well, he said.

Coscolluela said Eskan, which began in 2002 with a grant from Ford Foundation, has produced lesson plans for Grades 1 to 4 teachers and workbooks to improve pupils' reading skills that are being used in public schools in the province.

Last Jan. 30, Eskan turned over workbooks and lesson plans for Grades 5 and 6 pupils to the Schools Division of Negros Occidental.

The latest workbooks and lesson plans, authored by teachers in Negros Occidental, were produced with funds from the US Embassy's Democracy Small Grants Program, Coscolluela said.

The instructional materials are designed to improve skills in teaching English and to ensure that Grades 5 and 6 pupils have workbooks to enhance or speed up the learning process, he said.

Coscolluela said many LGUs have already purchased the instructional materials they have produced for Grades 1 to 4 to be made available in the public schools.

In some cases barangay leaders or firms in the locality have been tapped to fund the workbooks for pupils, he said.

"We have reports that indicate varying levels of improvement in English and other subjects," he said.

"In some cases where mayors have been actively involved, improvements in achievement tests have been dramatic," he said.

Eskan project officer Edwin Nacionales said DepEd figures showed that in Negros Occidental like other school divisions in the country, there had been a downtrend in quality education when Eskan began its work in 2002.

In fact, he said, the 2002 Division Achievement Test showed low Mean Percentage Scores (MPS) in English and three other areas.

Average MPS of pupils in English in all grade levels was at 49.88 percent, and 4 percent of the pupils' population were nonreaders, Nacionales said.

Reading disability

Former Negros Occidental Division Schools Superintendent Dr. Emolyn Corteza warned that if children were allowed to remain poor readers the consequences would be grave and far reaching.

With reading disabilities, she said, children would learn poorly in other subject areas, find difficulty in all future schooling, and constant failure could result in eventually dropping out.

She also said inability to read would erode the pupil's self esteem and self confidence resulting in greater learning disabilities, that would lead to their being sub-literates until their adult life.

COSCOLLUELA

Nacionales said a closer investigation of the reading problem showed that teachers faced with 50 students per class were unable to give special attention to slow learners.

In far-flung and hard to reach areas, he said, a single teacher handles six subjects a day, preventing time for individualized attention to pupils.

A survey by the division office then also showed that 45 percent of the teachers needed skills training, Nacionales said.

Many teachers lacked knowledge in using various teaching strategies and were unable to create a stimulating, non-threatening and affectionate classroom atmosphere, he added.

Also noted was the poor health and nutrition of the students and inadequate parental support, he said.

After analyzing the problem, Nacionales said Eskan focused on reading intervention.

"The belief was, if a child knows how to read, he would be able to solve problems in math and interpret experiments in science," he said.

So Eskan designed its intervention toward building capabilities of the school, the local government and the communities for educational reform and empowerment, he said.

This included tapping DepEd reading scholars from the Division of Negros Occidental to development enrichment materials like workbooks and teacher manuals.

Every pupil in target schools were then provided with workbooks and a textbook in English while the teachers were given teachers manuals, he said.

Better comprehension

Periodic assessments were conducted to check on the improvement of the pupils, he added.

The first year of the program covered 69 schools.

All Grade 1 pupils were provided with workbooks, textbooks and their teachers with 10-day training.

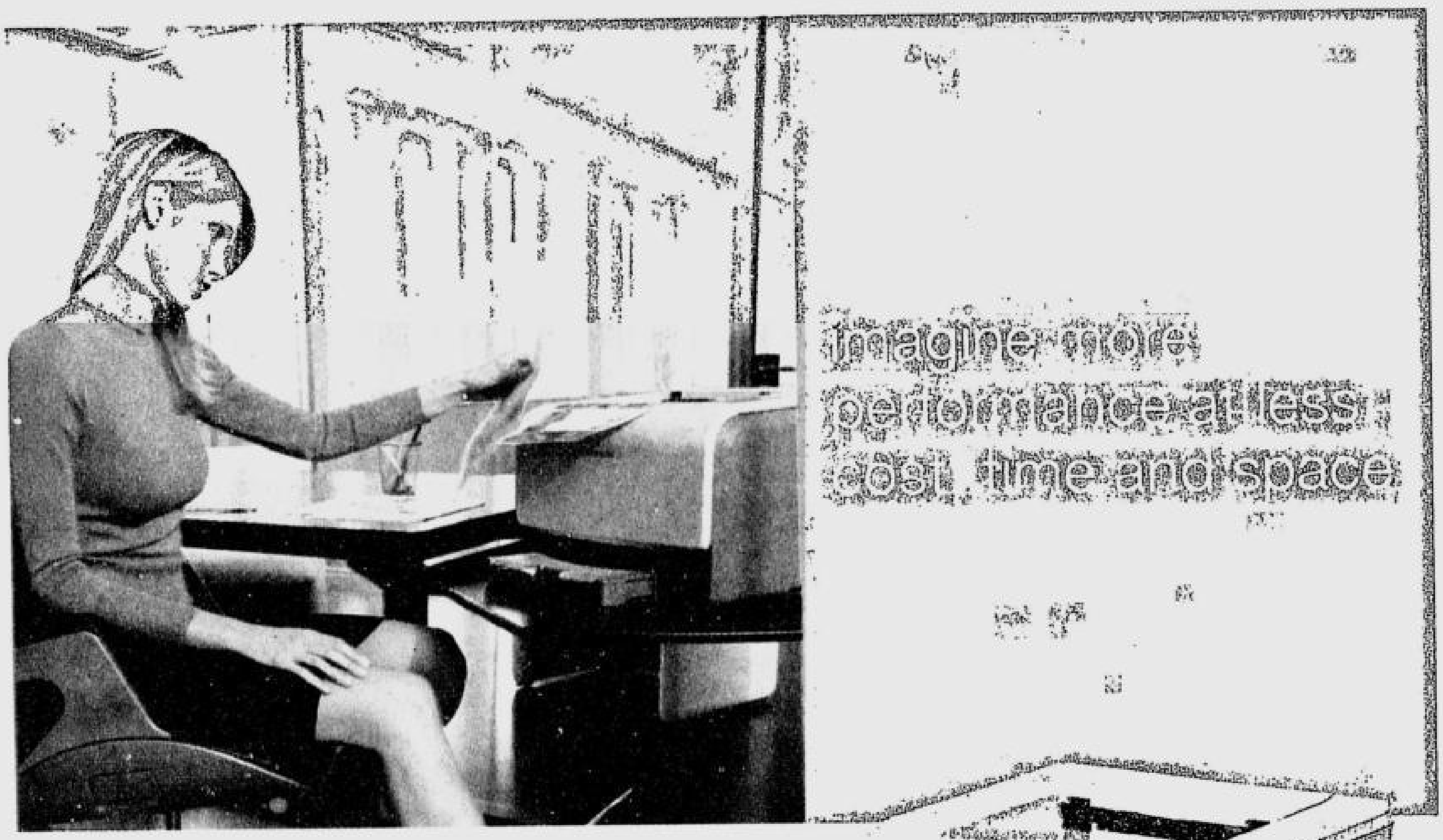
A para-teacher was hired in every school to provide remediation classes to non-and slow readers.

Comparative MPS in English of schools in Toboso, San Enrique, EB Magalona, Murcia, La Castellana and Moises Padilla initially covered by Eskan after a year of program implementation showed an increase of 8.4 percent, Nacionales said.

Since school year 2002-2003, he said there have been an average increase of 4 points in English MPS of Grade 1 pupils, and 6 points for Grade 2.

The intervention for Grade III resulted in an increase of 11 points, he said.

Among the workbooks for pupils and manuals for teachers Eskan has produced are "Let's Read and Think," "Let's Read and Write" and "Let's Think and Express" for Grade 1; "Let's Read and Grow," "Let's Read and Know," "Let's Read and Discover" and "Let's Read, Understand and Enjoy" for Grade 2; "Pathways to Language and Reading" for Grade 3; "English This Way" for Grade 4, "English Made Easy" for Grade 5 and "Gateway to Effective Communication" for Grade 6.



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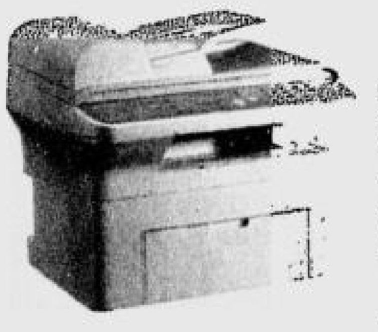

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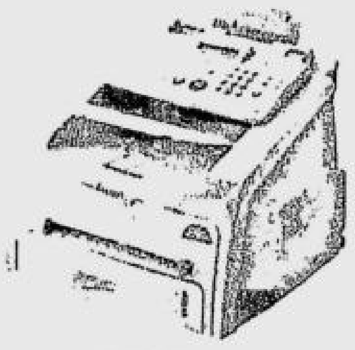

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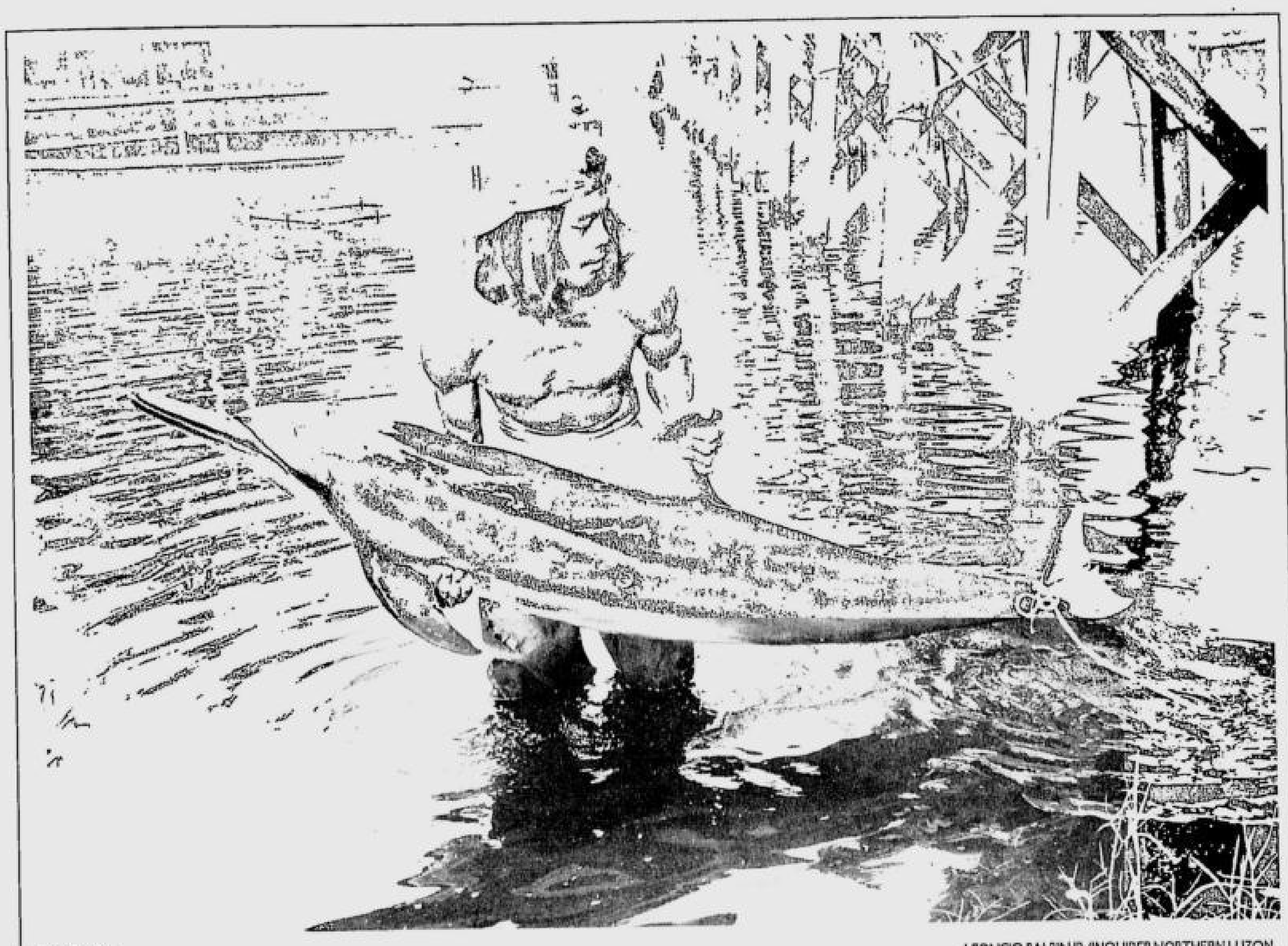


PIETA
A man carries a dead dolphin out of the waters of Patpatta in Candon City, Ilocos Sur. Fishermen saw the dolphin alive hours earlier.
LEONCIO BALBIN JR./INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Japan adds voice to clamor for RP, MILF to talk peace

COTABATO CITY—CALLS FOR the resumption of the stalled peace talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) continue to grow louder.

On Wednesday, a ranking Japanese official also urged Malacañang to resume talking peace with the rebels.

Yasunori Nakayama, political affairs minister of the Japanese Embassy in Manila, made the call after a meeting with MILF chief Murad Ebrahim in Sultan Kudarat, Shariff Kabunsuan.

Nakayama told Murad and other MILF leaders that, like Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also very concerned about the progress of the peace process between the government and MILF.

"Japan will extend substantial help for the progress of the peace process," Nakayama said.

In airing his appeal, Nakayama said the good teamwork and tremendous accomplishments brought about by the ceasefire accord were indications the process is leading to something good for the people of Mindanao.

Earlier, US officials also issued the same appeal.

Recently, business organizations have also asked the government and the MILF to resume the negotiations so that Mindanao could already move forward.

Undersecretary Virgilio Leretaña, chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), admitted that the lack of peace in some parts of the island have hindered business and development for so long already.

During the two-day business conference in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao held from Sept. 4, business leaders said there should be a concerted effort so that peace would finally be achieved in Mindanao. *Edwin Fernandez and Nash B. Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

Basilan, Sulu folk distrust Army, say groups

COTABATO CITY—DISPLACED Christian and Muslim residents of Basilan and Sulu said the military was not effectively winning the war on terror because of the lack of trust and cooperation from civilians.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER, the displaced residents said civilians, who could greatly contribute to the success of the campaign, were "scared of the military."

Sr. Lucia Araña, of the Oblates of Notre Dame, yesterday said the statement stemmed from a recent peace summit in Jolo, Sulu.

Instead of viewing soldiers as saviors, civilians view them as the cause of their agony, the statement added.

Civilian casualties

They cited the rising number of civilian casualties and dislocations because of the military campaign.

These incidents, they said, have created a feeling among civilians that they were also being targeted.

"We challenge the AFP and the national leadership to prove that they are for peace," the statement said.

The statement, signed by about 40 residents, also urged the military to exert efforts in building trust among the civilian population.

"Right now, the civilians, especially those (living) in the remote areas are scared of the military," they said.

Precision

They also urged the military to conduct its operations against the Abu Sayyaf bandits with "precision with no civilian casualties."

"We are tired of disruption to our livelihood. We want peace for the sake of our children. We are tired of hearing so many deadlines and endless ultimatums for many years now," the statement read.

Suharto Abas, area manager of the United Nations Act for Peace in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said residents who attended the summit also demanded a review of the Sept. 2, 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Despite the agreement, the military and the MNLF in Sulu had repeatedly clashed.

Abas said an MNLF representative attending the summit had proposed the creation of a body to oversee implementation of the peace pact.

The body's mandate should be legislated by Congress, he said.

Undersecretary Virgilio Leyretaña of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), an economic agency under the Office of the President, said the military operations in the provinces could not be considered a war.

Surgical operation

"You can not call that a war, but of course, we can not avoid that some of them (civilians) might become the collateral damage," Leyretaña said.

Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin also said what was taking place in his province was a mere "surgical operation" and not a major military offensive.

But like the residents, he said he was hoping the operation would not take long to complete.

Residents of a remote village in Makilala, North Cotabato fled on Wednesday when mortar shells fired during a live test fire by soldiers landed on their village.

Some of the shells even landed on houses, according to Rosalie Nasyon, a farmer and resident of Sitio Quarry in Sinkatulan Village.

She said some of the shells exploded near her house, destroying its roof and the family's belongings.
Nash Maulana and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao

Baguio execs working on returning scent of pine to the city

BAGUIO CITY—CITY OFFICIALS vowed to restore the pine-scent Baguio, which the country's summer capital is famous for, when it celebrates its centennial in 2009.

They would achieve this by planting a million trees to regreen Baguio, according to Virgilio Bautista, chair of the Baguio Centennial Commission.

"We want to preserve the grandeur as a summer capital. We always want to keep the city clean, green, peaceful, and a family tourism-oriented center," Bautista said in a press forum here on Wednesday.

Overcrowded

The deforestation, he said, was caused by illegal logging, overpopulation and squatting.

He said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Public Works and Highways have promised to plant a million trees.

The DENR in the Cordillera is expected to plant 300,000 seedlings this rainy season. It also directed the local foresters to start planting in vacant areas to increase the forest covers.

But Michael Pearson, member of the centennial commission, said Baguio has more trees now than in the 1960s. He said the deforestation is in areas outside the city like those along Kennon Road.

Squatting

Bautista said the commission and the government agencies would focus on planting more trees in the eight watersheds where a big number of trees had been destroyed due to squatting.

"Aside from the identified watersheds, we are also looking for other water aquifers in Baguio and also Benguet. We want to make sure that these areas are kept free from the squatters," he said.

In Pampanga, "green classes" or discussions on environmental issues and protection efforts are being pursued in Central Luzon's more than 3,000 elementary and high schools starting this month.

The environmental education program came after the DENR and the Department of Education signed a memorandum of agreement for that joint effort.

Numbers game

DENR Regional Executive Director Regidor de Leon said the two government agencies could reach out to 1.7 million students and draw them into the pro-environment movement.

"If the environmental battle were a numbers game, we could have easily licked the threats of global warming hands down," he said in a statement.

He said the school-based advocacy program would be piloted in 20 schools.

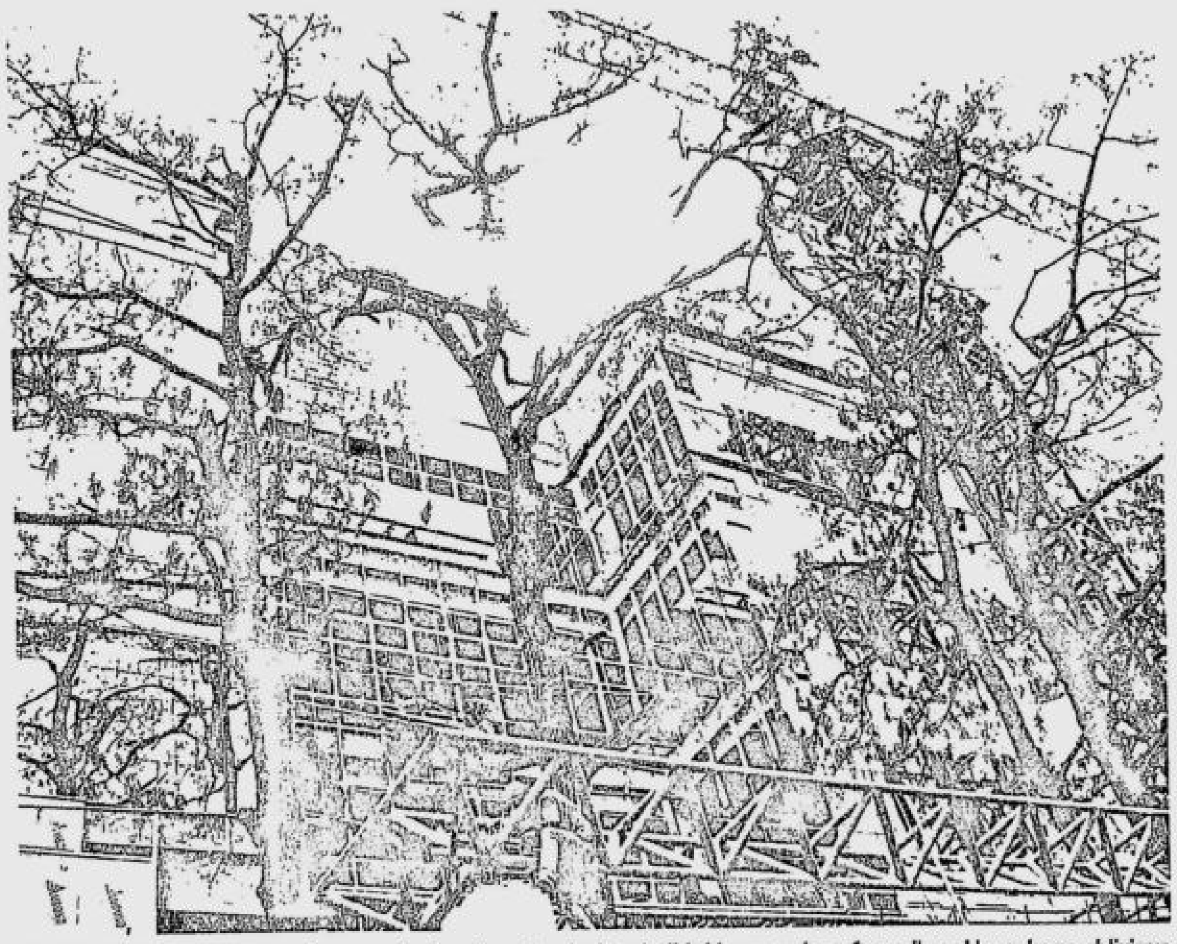
The regional DENR's 1,472 regular employees are teaming up with the regional DepEd's 48,000 personnel in this advocacy work.

The modules are going to be suited to where the students live. "If they live near a forested area, we would focus on the dynamics of ecosystems. If they live near rivers or seas, it would be coastal resource management. If they live in urban areas, it would be on solid waste management and antipollution efforts," De Leon said.

Materials

Students would be shown ways on how, as individuals or groups, they could contribute to environmental protection and benefit from it, he said.

Perla Collado, DENR regional public affairs chief, is overseeing the development of information materials, mostly pamphlets and video documentaries, on biodiversity conservation, solid waste management, climate change, ozone layer, clean air and water, forest protection, and other ecological and environmental concepts. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



CRIME SCENE. Work crews have worked against the clock to build this extension of a mall, and have been oblivious to the controversy created by the death of the pine trees in front of the project. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Police arrest member of Manila-based kidnap group

DIGOS CITY—POLICE AUTHORITIES arrested an alleged member of the notorious Manila-based Fajardo kidnap group during an operation in nearby Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

The operation was conducted on Wednesday by operatives of the Davao City and Sta. Cruz police.

Senior Supt. Jaime Morente. Davao City police chief, said they managed to track down Brian Ho Barbosa, who carries a bounty of P250,000, in Barangay Tuban.

Barbosa, he said, was one of the suspects in the kidnapping in Cavite of Caria Chua sometime in 2001.

Barbosa denied he was a member of the Fajardo gang.

He said he was also not involved in Chua's kidnapping.

But Morente said the suspect was positively identified and had already been charged in court.

Barbosa was the second most wanted criminal arrested in Davao del Sur this month alone.

On Sept. 1, Calabarzon's (Region 4) fourth most wanted criminal was also arrested by police operatives in Jose Abad Santos town.

Donato Panganiban, 47, a native of Morong, Rizal, had been in hiding for 12 years after he was tagged as being behind the death of a police officer in Rizal in 1995.

Chief Insp. Royina Garma-Vilela, provincial officer of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team (CIDT) in Davao del Sur, told reporters on Tuesday that Panganiban was hired as personal driver of a mayoral candidate in Laguna in 1995 when he, along with a Dennis Palad, reportedly shot and killed a police officer.

She did not identify the slain police officer but said Panganiban took his pistol and sold it for P6,000.

Panganiban then went into hiding in Jose Abad Santos, where his wife hails, she said.

Vilela said Panganiban, who carries a bounty of P100,000, was also wanted for robbery.
Orlando Dinoy and Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao

US lawyers denounce Joma arrest, jailing

DAVAO CITY—THE US-BASED National Lawyers Guild (NLG) denounced the arrest of Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison.

In a statement dated Sept. 5, the group headed by Marjorie Cohn, said that Sison's arrest "exposes the hand of the Arroyo administration in yet another assault on the rights of the people to dissent and organize."

Founded in 1937, the NLG is a progressive bar association in the United States and is based in New York.

"This assault has seen nearly a thousand men and women murdered; rebellion charges filed against members of Philippine Congress; and three NLG lawyers linked to the Taliban by the Philippine government," the group said.

Sison was arrested by Dutch authorities on Aug. 28 for the murder of former communist leaders Arturo Tabara and Romulo Kintanar.

The New People's Army (NPA), the CPP's armed wing, had owned up to the killings, which the government said, was carried out on Sison's order.

But the NLG said the accusation against Sison was baseless and his arrest "(is) just further evidence of trumped up war against those who challenge the Arroyo regime and reinforce the need to stop the repression now."

The group also criticized the raid conducted by Dutch authorities on the houses of Sison's colleagues in the Netherlands and the NDF office there.

Sison is also chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front (NDF).

"It is yet another attempt by the Macapagal-Arroyo government, in cooperation and in subservience to imperialist globalization, to stifle the patriotic concerns of 10 million overseas Filipinos and solidarity allies of the Philippine people's movement," the Gabriela Network (GABNet), the Philippine-US women's solidarity organization, said in a separate statement.

But Armed Forces Chief Hermogenes Esperon told reporters during a recent visit here that Sison was a murderer.

Esperon said aside from ordering the execution of rival communist leaders, Sison was also behind the deaths of thousands of communist guerrillas suspected of being military spies.

Esperon cited some of the NPA's anti-collaborators' campaign, including Kahos, which was allegedly widely implemented in Mindanao during the 1980s. *Jeffrey Tupas with a report from Joselle Badilla, Inquirer Mindanao*

▲

KMU accuses Dutch gov't of connivance with GMA to protect its interests here

THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S INterest in ensuring protection for its economic interests in the Philippines was the main reason behind its "connivance" with the Arroyo administration to arrest Jose Ma. Sison, the militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno said yesterday.

According to KMU secretary general Wilson Baldonaza, the Dutch government knew that the affidavits and sworn testimonies of the widows of Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara—which were principally used to press murder charges against Sison in The Netherlands—were part of the evidence dismissed by the Supreme Court in junking the two rebellion cases filed against the so-called "Batasan 6" and 51 others, including Sison.

FREE JOMA
U.S.-Dutch-Gloria, U.S.-Dutch-Gloria,
FASCISTS! FASCISTS!

DUTCH TREAT: With a rally permit from the Makati City Hall, protesters go all the way to the Dutch Embassy in Makati City to manifest support for Joma Sison who is in jail in the Hague. REM ZAMORA

Dutch companies

"It is clear that the accusations of the widows of Kintanar and Tabara that Professor Sison ordered the slaying of their husbands are unfounded. The Supreme Court, which is the highest court of the land, said so in its ruling last July," Baldonaza said in a statement.

He added: "What The Netherlands wants is to ensure that its various business and investments in the Philippines are protected and even expanded by arresting one of the worst enemies of the Arroyo government, and that is ... Sison."

Baldonaza listed some of the big Dutch companies operating in the Philippines—oil and petroleum products (Royal Dutch Shell); consumer products (Unilever); banking (ABN-Amro); electronics (Philips); petroleum trading, oil and gas exploration (Vitol Group); insurance (AXA-Life); retail industry (Makro); coco coil export (Rinos B, V-Corion); and solar energy (Shell Solar Philippines).

He said the Arroyo administration had "virtually turned over" the gas reserves of Malampaya in Palawan and converted the indigenous peoples' ancestral lands into agricultural plantations to serve Dutch multinational corporations.

"The Dutch government grossly undermined and even rebuked the decision of the Supreme Court in the Philippines, which shows that it is only politically persecuting Professor Sison and his comrades in The Netherlands. If only the Dutch court would be objective and just, it will immediately release ... Sison and dismiss the trumped-up case against him," Baldonaza said.

He said the KMU and its affiliates would continue organizing and joining protests around the world to secure Sison's freedom. *Jerome Aning*

Gov't grants amnesty to CPP, NPA, NDF

From page A1

son's lawyer Victor Koppe as saying that a Dutch court in The Hague heard defense arguments on Friday for dropping murder charges against his client and would rule next week on whether to continue the case. *(See story on Page A2.)*

Sison was arrested and detained by Dutch police last week for allegedly ordering the killing of former CPP leaders Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara in 2003 and 2004, respectively. He has denied involvement in the killings. *(See related story on Page A17.)*

Ms Arroyo, who wants a final peace accord forged with communist rebels before the end of her term in 2010, signed the proclamation on the day she flew to Sydney to attend the 15th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. It was made public only yesterday.

"There is an urgent need and expressed desire to extend amnesty to members of the CPP-NPA-NDF and other communist rebel groups as an instrument of reconciliation, and as a path for their return to a peaceful, democratic and pluralistic society," Ms Arroyo said.

Needs Congress concurrence

The proclamation was drafted by Dureza. To be legal and binding, it requires the concurrence of the majority of all members of Congress.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said certified copies of the proclamation had been transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives "for concurrence in accordance with the Constitution."

The proclamation mandates rebels to file their application "under oath" with the National Committee on Social Integration and the Provincial or City Peace and Order Council Amnesty Centers (P/CPOC-ACs) within six months from the effectivity of the proclamation.

The President signed the proclamation two days after the National Security Council (NSC) formally approved the grant of amnesty to communist rebels who will lay down their arms.

But NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal assailed the proposed amnesty as "a political gimmick."

"It will be totally ignored and roundly rejected by the revolutionary forces," he said in a statement.

P.5-B initial fund

Ms Arroyo, who presided over the NSC meeting on Tuesday, said in her opening statement that she had allotted P.5 billion as initial fund to bankroll a nationwide amnesty program.

She said the fund would "hasten a stable peace and security in the region, with the local and religious officials at the helm, supported by the entire national government."

The initial amount needed to implement the proclamation will come from the Office of the President and will be released to Dureza's office.

Regular funds will be provided for its implementation in the succeeding years under the General Appropriations Act.

Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., the Armed Forces chief of staff, said he favored amnesty for communist rebels who would "surrender their firearms and altogether denounce armed struggle."

He said there would be no ceasefire even if the amnesty program had taken effect.

"There will be no ceasefire, as far as I understand. If [the rebels] want to take advantage of the social integration program, all they have to do is apply for it and surrender their firearms. Then they will be given livelihood assistance," Esperon said.

Integral to peace efforts

In Proclamation 1377, the President said "accepting rebels back to the fold of the law through amnesty, and eventually providing them access to the government's existing socioeconomic services, are essential to attaining peace and reconciliation."

"An amnesty program is an integral component of the government's comprehensive peace efforts" as mandated in Executive Order No. 3 dated Feb. 28, 2001, she said.

She added that the amnesty granted under Proclamation No. 1377 was part of the Social Integration Program for former rebels as provided by Administrative Order No. 172, which she issued last March 23.

The proposed amnesty covers "the crime of rebellion and all other crimes included therein or incident thereto in pursuit of political belief as defined by jurisprudence, whether punishable under the Revised Penal Code or special laws."

"Crimes against chastity, rape, torture, kidnapping for ransom, use and trafficking of illegal drugs and other crimes for personal ends and violations of international law or convention and protocols, even if alleged to have been committed in pursuit of political beliefs," are not covered.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 8, 2007
Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary
1st Reading: Mic 5:1-4 (or Rom 8:28-30)
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23

This is the account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.

Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (their mother was Tamar), Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron of Aram. Aram was the father of Aminadab, Aminadab of Nahshon, Nahshon of Salmon.

Salmon was the father of Boaz. His mother was Rahab. Boaz was the father of Obed. His mother was Ruth. Obed was the father of Jesse.

Jesse was the father of David, the king. David was the father of Solomon. His mother had been Uriah's wife.

Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Then came the kings: Abijah, Asaph, Jehoshaphat, Joram, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, Josiah.

Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

After the deportation to Babylon Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel and Salathiel of Zerubbabel.

Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud, Abiud of Eliakim, and Eliakim of Azor. Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, and Akim the father of Eliud. Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar of Matthan, and Matthan of Jacob.

Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and from her came Jesus who is called the Christ—the Messiah.

This is how Jesus Christ was born. Mary his mother had been given to Joseph in marriage but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Then Joseph, her husband, made plans to divorce her in all secrecy. He was an upright man, and in no way did he want to discredit her.

While he was pondering over this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She has conceived by the Holy Spirit, and now she will bear a son. You shall call him 'Jesus' for he will save his people from their sins."

All this happened in order to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called Emmanuel, which means: God-with-us.

Commentary

We always read about Jesus on the days we honor Mary. It is her child and the Incarnation—God becoming flesh/human in the world; our hope, our salvation, our life; God who makes us human. The child is born in Bethlehem—a place of no consequence but will bring forth a shepherd in the strength of God who shall reach the ends of the earth and shall be peace.

All things work together for God. God's Son is the first born of many brothers and sisters—we are all given birth in Jesus and given to God. Mary was given birth (by her parents like all of us) but it was her child, the Son of the Father, who gave birth to her in the power of the Spirit, giving her back to the Father, as each of us is given over to God.

We are all called to give birth to the Word in our flesh and to celebrate our birthdays—born in the world, born into Christ, hidden in God in our baptisms, and born into the Body of Christ, the Church. Happy Birthday to Mary and to us all.

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Doble tags GMA aide; Bishop Soc names Medy Poblador

From page A1

to the public in June 2005 supposedly containing fabricated phone conversations between Ms Arroyo and Garcillano, Doble said in Filipino: "That was intended to cover up what happened in the presidential election."

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, who was also invited to the hearing, wrote a letter to the senators that appeared to support Doble's claim of Poblador's involvement.

Lacson cited Villegas' letter as corroborating Doble's testimony.

Doble, who said he was part of an intelligence team that monitored and recorded the "Hello Garci" conversations, sought refuge in San Carlos Seminary in Makati City in June 2005, along with former National Bureau of Investigation official Samuel Ong.

They hid in the seminary after Ong claimed to possess the so-called "mother of all tapes" containing the supposed Arroyo-Garcillano conversations. Ong said his copy came from Doble.

Meeting Medy

Doble was later taken out of the seminary by Bishop Villegas and brought to Camp Aguinaldo.

Inside the camp, at the official residence of then AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu, he met Medy, Doble told the Senate.

"I saw Abu, (then) AFP Vice Chief of staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan and a woman," he said. "My wife Arlene said the woman was Medy ... a secretary of President Arroyo."

He said that Medy had approached his wife and told her that if they had any problems they could come to her.

Lacson said that Poblabor "is the personal confidante of President Arroyo."

"Information has it that there are only two persons personally allowed by President Arroyo to ride in her car—[television director] Lupita Kashiwahara and Poblador," Lacson said.

Villegas did not attend the Senate hearing.

Concern for seminarians

Instead, the bishop wrote a letter to the Senate through Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, saying he could not attend "on account of my religious duties and pastoral commitments as Bishop of the Catholic Church."

Villegas defended his role in getting Doble out of the San Carlos Seminary, saying he did it out of concern for the safety of the seminarians and not in support of any warring political factions.

"I wish to state categorically that I did what I did because of my love and concern for our distressed and confused seminarians whose building was trespassed and whose seminary rhythm and priestly discipline was disturbed," Villegas said.

Villegas said that on June 13, 2005, apart from receiving calls from priests at the seminary "asking for help," he also received a call from Poblador, whom he knew to be one of the assistants of former President Corazon Aquino.

He said it was only later that he realized that Poblador had already become a member of the staff of Ms Arroyo.

Crisis at the seminary

The bishop said Poblador had asked him to come and help resolve "the ongoing crisis" at the seminary, where Doble and Ong were in hiding.

"I said yes as I expressed concern for our seminarians inside the compound whose priestly discipline of study, prayer and silence was being disturbed by the presence of Atty. Ong and Mr. Doble," said Villegas.

He said Poblador also arranged for him to be picked up by helicopter from Balanga.

Arriving at Camp Aguinaldo, Villegas said he was briefed about the situation.

At the time, the city was awash with rumors that the military was planning to extricate Doble out of the seminary.

Black van

Villegas said he was then provided with a black van—which Doble said was owned by then military intelligence chief Rear Adm. Tirso Danga—and driven to the seminary. Along the way, he said he called Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales to ask for his blessings.

Villegas said he found Doble at the visitors' reception area of the seminary and told him he had come to bring him out.

"I said I have the cell phone of your wife to prove to you that I am a good person and will cause you no harm," the bishop said.

Doble called his wife on the phone and then told the bishop he was ready to go with him, according to Villegas.

Villegas said he brought Doble to the seminary chapel to pray just before they left the compound for Camp Aguinaldo.

Ready to die

"I did it as a bishop whose main duty is to be a father to his priests and future priests," Villegas said.

"If there was indeed to be a military operation in the seminary to bring out Mr. Doble and Atty. Ong that day, I wanted to be with our seminarians and priests that moment of crisis to assure them, to console them and tell them that I was ready to die with them."

Doble told the senators the Medy he saw at Camp Aguinaldo wore a shirt, jeans and rubber shoes, and that he could identify her when he sees her again.

"Obviously, Malacañang was interested in spiriting out Doble from San Carlos so that he could not reveal what he wanted to reveal at the time," Lacson told reporters after the hearing.

Doble claimed the reason he could not talk of what he knew about the "Hello Garci" tape then was because the military was detaining his family.

Doble, who had previously said Smart Communications Inc. was used to bug Ms Arroyo's conversations with Garcillano, yesterday alleged that Globe Telecoms was also involved.

Representatives of the country's largest telecommunications firms fell back on their previous assertions that they were never engaged in wiretapping activities.

In a telephone interview, Globe Telecoms spokesperson Jones Campos reiterated that the company had no capability for wiretapping operations.

Smart, Globe denials

"We categorically deny any involvement in any illegal activity," he added.

Smart Communications Inc. in a statement said it "has not and will not participate in any illegal wiretapping operation by any agency of the government."

"Smart maintains strict policies prohibiting the participation of any employee in such illegal activities," it said. "Any personnel found to be violating this will face the appropriate sanctions." *With reports from Daxim L. Lucas and Beverly T. Natividad*

Pro-, anti-GMA senators clash over Doble testimony

From page A1

House and CA, including statements that he was paid P2 million for releasing the tapes to an officer of the National Bureau of Investigation.

But for opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble was "bullied" by Palace allies to protect President Macapagal-Arroyo in connection with the 2004 election fraud scandal and the alleged cover-up operations orchestrated by Malacañang.

Tension was already high early on, with Gordon taking a swipe at Lacson for supposedly coaching Doble.

Gordon particularly noted how Lacson supplemented a portion of Doble's testimony that mentioned a certain "Medy." Lacson then explained that Doble must be referring to Remedios Poblador, a "confidante" of President Arroyo.

Later in an interview with reporters, he noted that Doble "has not yet established who Medy is" and that "a senator should not do that for him."

He said Doble's testimony was "already damaged, it's all hearsay. He had a chance to tell the court he was being coerced but he did not; he was just following orders."

"He is an unreliable witness," Gordon added, wondering how Doble could have had "personal knowledge" that two major cell phone service providers, Globe and Smart, had supposedly helped the military conduct wiretapping operations.

'Master of double talk'

"He just said his superior talked to them (Globe and Smart). What this witness is telling me is that he is inconsistent, he is lying and I don't appreciate that," he added.

"He's really the master of double talk," Gordon said.

Also in an interview after the hearing, Enrile described Doble as an "educated witness" who could be spontaneous when answering questions "fed" to him but would turn evasive when fielding questions that "he was not trained for."

Enrile said he was able to pin Doble down as a "barefaced liar" when the latter reiterated that he told the truth in the Court of Appeals and then backtracked with his testimony in the Senate.

Enrile also doubted Doble's claim that his life had been in danger since leaving the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, noting: "For eight months, he was out of military service and he lived in a village, inside a military camp, but nothing happened to him. So what threat is he talking about?"

What became clear yesterday, Enrile said, was that Doble could go to jail for admitting under oath that he gave tapes containing wiretapped phone conversations to then NBI Deputy Director Samuel Ong and his associate Lito Santiago.

Arroyo dismissed the three-hour grilling of Doble as a "useless exercise."

"Doble destroyed himself because of his testimony. How can you believe someone who testified to some facts under oath in the House of Representatives and the court and suddenly makes a complete reversal in the Senate?" Arroyo said.

Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. also gave little credence to Doble's statement that he did a turnaround with his Senate testimony after being bothered by his conscience.

"There is no guarantee that he is telling the truth now and that he is not taking the country for another ride," said Revilla.

Lacson, who first presented Doble's videotaped statements on the floor two weeks ago, told reporters he expected the administration senators to gang up on the witness but "I thought they did not succeed."

Palace protectors

"I told Doble at the outset, you don't have to consult your lawyer if you are telling the truth. You cannot pacify these people—Senators Dick Gordon, Enrile and Arroyo—no matter how many witnesses you present. They will never be satisfied because they have their own mind-set to protect, which is Malacañang's," Lacson said.

"I don't know what the instruction is, but it was clear they wanted to disrupt the proceedings and discredit Doble. They did not succeed," he added.

Opposition Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, maintained "there is a reason to believe what he is saying because it is logical."

"Just put yourself in his shoes—you are a soldier, you know what will happen. Would you say in the House and Court of Appeals that the voice on the tape is the President's? No matter who is in his position, you will be afraid," said Cayetano.

For Gordon, Lacson made a mistake by anchoring the revived "Hello Garci" inquiry on a witness with "zero credibility," especially after Doble's statements have been disputed by his own superiors.

"It will be his word against them (Doble's superiors). They would just say how could you believe him, your Honors, when he had lied to his wife—he has three—and he had lied to the Lower House, the Court of Appeals, and that he took some money," Gordon said.

"He must be afraid of the one who gave him the money for double-crossing them," said Gordon.

Cayetano, who figured in his first televised Senate hearing, admitted finding the proceedings "supercharged" at the outset. "I just watched it on TV before and there was less animosity then, but now it felt like there was tension in every single question, in every name, in every issue."

Double standard

There was also a heated exchange between Arroyo and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on how to treat a witness.

Pimentel questioned what he read as Arroyo's refusal to let Doble expound on his answer, but Arroyo cried "double standard," saying no complaints have been raised against other senators about their style of questioning.

Who's Medy, why she makes things happen

From page A1

cañang listed "Remedios L. Poblador" as assistant secretary in the Palace's "Private Offices," with landline number 552-6785 and 551-1356 for fax.

During the Senate hearing on the "Hello, Garci" case yesterday, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he had asked Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, who was a 3-term congressman, if he had ever seen Poblador in the House. Cayetano replied in the negative, Lacson said.

Puno, who said he talked with her over the phone, denied Sen. Panfilo Lacson's claim that Poblador was a personal confidante of President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

"I don't think that qualifies her to be a confidante of the President," said Puno.

He said she would face the public soon.

"In due time, she's going to be making statements on this matter," said Puno, who could not reveal Poblador's whereabouts.

"She's a relative of Archbishop (Gaudencio Cardinal) Rosales," Puno said, explaining why Poblador was in Camp Aguinaldo, where he met Bishop Socrates Villegas and former T/Sgt. Vidal Doble. That occurred two years ago after Doble left his hiding place at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati and went with the bishop to the military headquarters.

He helped the Dobles

"I hope we put things in the proper context," Puno said, adding in Filipino: "It cannot be denied that she helped the family."

He said Poblador helped the Doble family as an "act of charity."

Puno said that when the military was about to attack the Makati seminary, where Doble and Samuel Ong had taken refuge, "they asked the help of someone who can talk to the bishop, so that violence would be avoided that day."

"She was asked to talk to Cardinal Rosales because she's a relative of Cardinal Rosales," not because "she's a Palace official," Puno said.

"I think we should credit her for that, not misinterpret her participation and put all kinds of motivation."

No proof

After that, Poblador had been regularly helping Doble's family upon the latter's request.

Told about Lacson's claim that Poblador's intervention brought the "Hello Garci" issue to Malacañang's doorsteps, Puno said:

"Insinuation means it has no proof. And that is exactly what it is. It is an insinuation which is unfounded," Puno said. "Why, the help they (the Lacson camp is) giving to Sgt. Doble, isn't that (proof) that they are also involved, whatever it is?"

He said what Poblador did was a "personal" act.

"Public officials have a duty to help people who come for them for assistance in good faith. Is it wrong?"

Hardworking, professional

Puno challenged Lacson's camp to show proof that Poblador's help had strings attached.

"Anybody can accuse anybody of anything, but for Undersecretary Poblador to be able to stop anybody from testifying (is unthinkable)," he said.

She's a "low key" official, he said, describing her as "very hardworking, very intelligent ... very serious" and "professional."

He appealed to people not to "smear the reputation of people that are constructive and positive people."

Malacañang sources said she kept a low profile in the early days of her work at the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) under then political adviser Gabriel Claudio.

Despite being low key, her role became crucial for Ms Arroyo—she kept senators who needed favors from Malacañang connected to the right people, the sources said.

Eloped with boss

Poblador was no stranger to Malacañang. While working in the protocol office during the term of President Corazon Aquino, she eloped with her boss, Ambassador Miguel Perez Rubio.

But after a few years, the relationship fell apart.

Problem solver

Under the Arroyo administration, she became a problem solver, especially if it involved problems of legislators whose support the administration sought.

Malacañang officials who had witnessed how she dealt with other officials in the Palace said she had won the deep trust of Ms Arroyo and claimed that she sometimes felt she was in the same level as members of the Cabinet.

At one point, said an official who witnessed one incident, she had shouted at a Cabinet secretary in the Guest House.

"*Ganun siya kabigat* (She's that powerful)," said the source, a middle-level official of Malacañang, who refused to be identified.

Culinary whiz

One of the things that made her famous in the Guest House, according to other sources who had worked there, was her good cooking.

Every Monday, she would bring food to Claudio's office and, soon, word about her good cooking spread and brought other Cabinet officials over to Claudio's office for impromptu picnics.

Ms Arroyo herself had tasted her cooking, the sources said.

Aside from her food, however, Palace officials who knew her work said she had become skilled at finding solutions to problems brought to the PLLO by congressmen and senators.

Some of the problems were where to find money for projects, or "special requests that don't go through the regular channels."

"She's the one to go to if you're a congressman or senator and you have a special request," said the source.

This role emanates from her official title as head of the PLLO, an office that makes sure the lines of communications are kept open between Congress and Malacañang.

Corrupt China exec done in by 11 mistresses

From page A1

or other abuses of power.

Pang Jiayu, 63, former deputy head of the provincial political advisory body in the northwestern province of Shaanxi, was sacked and expelled from the Communist Party for graft, Xinhua news agency reported.

"Pang did not expect that he would be brought down by his own 11 mistresses," the official People's Daily said in a report carried on its website.

Subordinates' wives

Pang, who was also party boss of Baoji city, had lured several women, mostly "pretty and young" wives of his subordinates, to be his mistresses, it said.

He helped them "make big money" by assigning them or their husbands huge government or other financial projects, it added.

In one water-diversion project in which Pang's wife and mistresses were involved, water pipes exploded and collapsed only half a year after completion, it said.

Death sentences

The mistresses decided to denounce Pang to the party after some of their husbands were sentenced to death for graft in cases related to Pang.

The party's discipline inspection commission said in July that they would deal with the case severely.

"What awaits Pang Jiayu is severe punishment," the report said.

Chinese media said this week that 90 percent of the country's most senior officials punished for "serious" graft in the last five years had kept mistresses.

Rampant graft

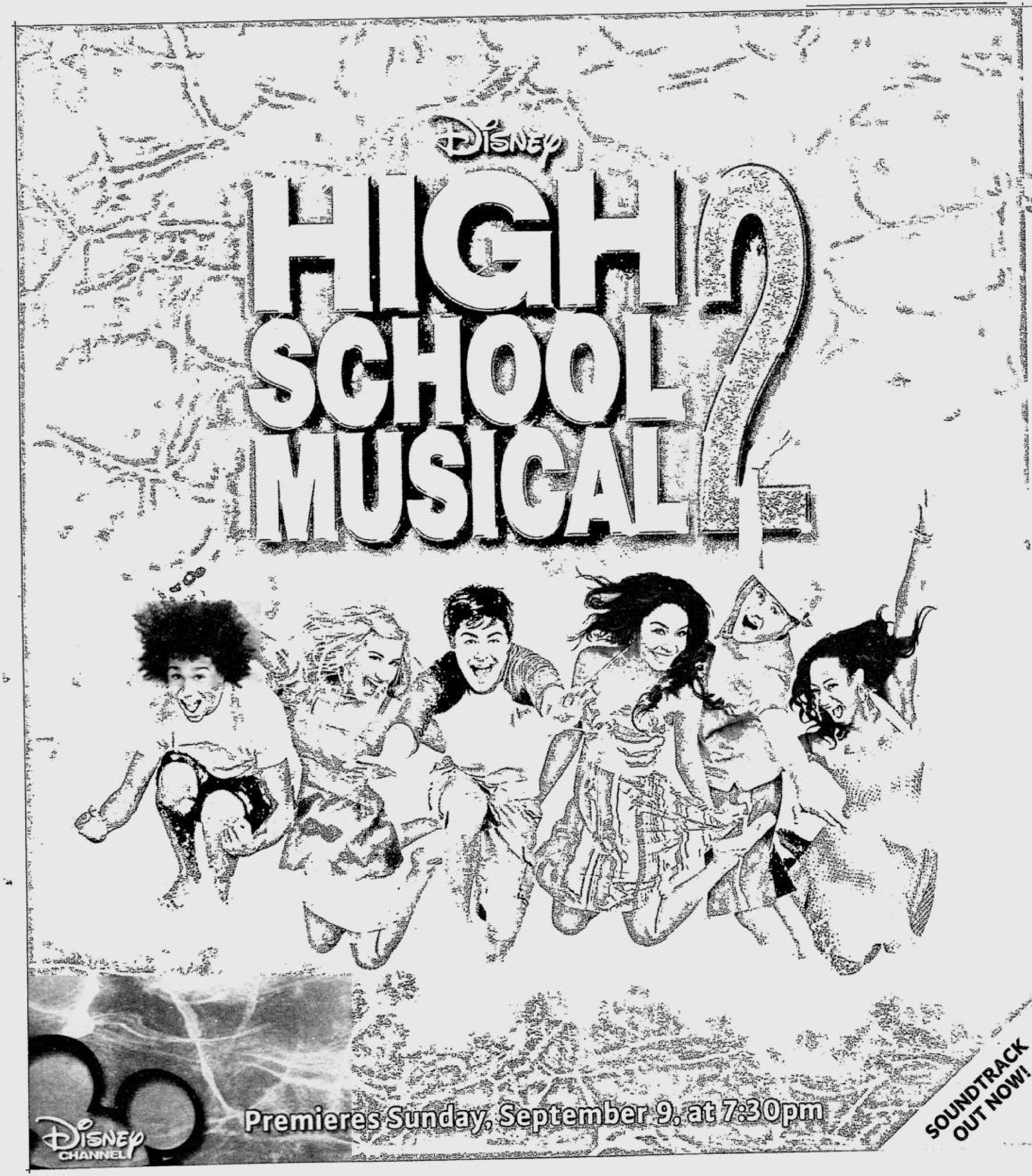
Duan Yihe, former party chief of Jinan city in the eastern province of Shandong, was executed on Wednesday for blowing up his mistress after growing tired of her constant money demands.

Hong Kong newspaper reports said former Finance Minister Jin Renqing was sacked last month in part for a dalliance with a local socialite. A government spokesperson said he had resigned for "personal reasons."

Corruption very serious

With a five-yearly Communist Party Congress due to open next month, and the fight against rampant corruption likely to loom large, official media these days are full of reports of venal officials meeting their comeuppance.

Top leaders have warned that the level of official corruption is so serious that it could threaten the party's continuing rule. *Reuters*



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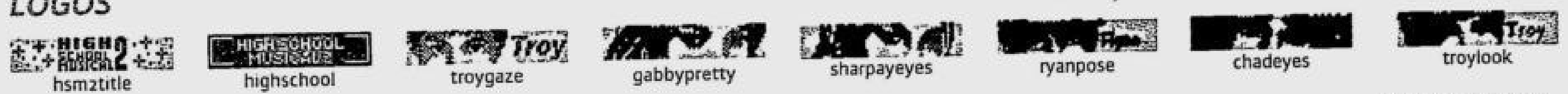

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Come out, hazing death suspects told

4 new witnesses name fratmen in initiation rites

By **Jeannette I. Andrade, Tina G. Santos, Jerry E. Esplanada and Niña Catherine Calleja,** *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

FACE US. TELL US THE TRUTH.

Cristina Garcia Mendez, mother of suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez, made the appeal yesterday to persons involved in her son's death.

Cris was a senior University of the Philippines (UP) public administration student.

Following a Mass at the National College of Public Administration and Governance (NCPAG) quadrangle, a teary-eyed Cristina said, *"Matapang nilang ginawa ito sa anak ko. Matapang din sana silang harapin ang ginawa nila."* (They had the courage to do this to my son so they should have the courage to face the responsibility for what they did.)

Four new witnesses, whose names were withheld, meanwhile, went to the Quezon City Police District and identified members of a fraternity who allegedly participated in initiation rites on Aug. 25-26 in a house in Barangay Pasong Tamo, Pingkian, Quezon City.

A source told the INQUIRER that the witnesses are all UP students, two them members of the Sigma Rho.

"Two of the witnesses were able to give us names of those fraternity members who actually participated in the initiation rites while the two other students provided us vital information that backed up statements given by the two Sigma Rho members," the source said.

The victim's mother received assurances from UP vice chancellor Elizabeth Enriquez, representing the administration, and NCPAG members that all resources of the university were being utilized in the investigation of the incident.

Fenny Tatad, an NCPAG alumna and wife of former Sen. Francisco Tatad,, expressed the alumni association's outrage at the death of Cris, the college representative to the university student council.

Tatad scored the Sigma Rho fraternity for threatening to sue UP, saying, "We (NCPAG alumni) condemn the arrogance of the fraternity to even think of suing the university."

NCPAG professor Leonor Briones appealed to other UP colleges to act and discipline students suspected of involvement in Cris' death.

Meanwhile, 11 fraternities, including the Sigma Rho, signed yesterday a multilateral declaration against campus violence. Among the signatories were Beta Epsilon, Beta Sigma, Pi Omicron, Alpha Phi Omega, Alpha Sigma, Pan Xenia, Scintilla Juris, Tau Alpha, Alpha Phi Beta, and Upsilon Sigma Phi.

They denounced all forms of violence "particularly in our admission and initiation processes as well as in our relationship with other fraternities."

Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it would ask the Bureau of Immigration to put on its watch list Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., the doctor who brought the victim to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, for ignoring the bureau's summons.

Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, said Cruz's testimony "is indispensable" and his apparent refusal

COME/A22

Please join
"PAG family
for Cris
ndez.

JOAN BONDOC

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines officials, students and friends of Cris Mendez (in framed photograph) attend Mass held at the National College of Public Administration and Governance, yesterday.

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SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

Police monitoring activities of Erap supporters

By NancyC. Carvajal

METRO POLICE WERE ORDERED to monitor the activities of supporters of former President Estrada and to take preemptive measures in preparation for the promulgation of the decision in the plunder case against him, his son Sen. Jinggoy Estrada and his lawyer Ed Serapio.

In a memorandum dated Sept. 3, National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Reynaldo Varilla instructed police intelligence units to monitor the activities of Estrada supporters following intelligence report that members of the Free Erap movement would hold mass actions if the Sandiganbayan convicted Estrada.

Armed Forces of the Philippines National Capital Region Chief Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino said earlier the worst-case scenario was a repeat of the May 1, 2001 attack by Estrada supporters of Malacañang.

Four people were killed while hundreds were wounded when pro-Estrada loyalists tried to storm Malacañang in 2001.

The police memo said protests would be spearheaded by actor Rez Cortez and Estrada supporter Linggoy Alcuaz.

"A series of mass actions, and protests will be held to protest the alleged unfavorable judgment and Malacañang's manipulation of the court's decision on Erap's plunder case," the memorandum said.

It also said the group got the approval of Manila City Mayor Alfredo Lim for the use of Mendiola bridge and Liwasang Bonifacio as staging points of their protests.

It was also mentioned that several senators were reportedly drafting a manifesto of support for the deposed leader. Named as signatories were Senators Estrada, Antonio Trillanes, Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Juan Ponce Enrile.

The National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines was reportedly conducting a study to determine the people's sentiments on Estrada's possible conviction.

The cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela, which have the biggest number of depressed areas, are known to be bailiwicks of the deposed leader.

END
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IN THE PHILIPPINES!
ANTI-CHILD PORNOGRAPHY ALLIANCE
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SECRETARIAT

MAKING A STAND

Children display protest placards during a conference against child pornography held inside the College of St. Benilde auditorium in Manila yesterday in preparation for National Children's Month in October. The Anti-Child Pornography Alliance gathered children in the capital to encourage various sectors to actively promote and defend the basic rights and freedoms of Filipino children against all forms of abuses. EDWIN BACASMAS

2 suspected shabu peddlers arrested

By Julie M. Aurelio

A CHINESE NATIONAL WAS apprehended after police found metamphetamine hydrochloride, popularly known as shabu, worth almost P5 million in his possession during a buy-bust operation in Tondo, Manila the other day.

Chua Liong Chow and his companion, Marlon Susano, who were charged with violation of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, are now detained at the National Capital Region Police Office in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

Operatives from the Regional Police Intelligence Operatives Unit arrested the pair during an entrapment operation along P. Algue Street corner Narra St. in Tondo at around 3:30 p.m. of Sept 6.

Team leader Senior Insp. Roberto Palisoc said they had been monitoring the pair for a long time now. An asset tipped them about the Chinese national's alleged drug peddling activities in Manila and Bulacan, said RPIOU chief Supt. Nap Villegas.

Apart from the two bags of a white crystalline substance which were later confirmed to be shabu, police also found an Armscor cal. 45 semi-automatic pistol with 8 live bullets, a silver Toyota Revo (XNV 799), a blue Toyota Corolla (WPE 756), and a white Honda Civic (UDE 633).

La Naval committee highlights centennial events

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

THE CELEBRATION FOR THE grand centennial canonical coronation of the Our Lady of Holy Rosary-La Naval de Manila goes into high gear with the Sto. Domingo Church in Quezon City as center of all activities.

The extensive preparations, conceived as early as two years ago, will culminate in a series of events to mark Our Lady of La Naval's 100th year of veneration next month.

"This is also a celebration of the Filipino faith," Rev. Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, chair of the La Naval Centennial Festivities, said in a press conference yesterday. "We celebrate the feast of the Our Lady of La Naval to remind us that whatever battle—be it personal or otherwise—we go through in our every day lives, we will succeed because Mary is there."

The highlight of the celebration is the re-enactment of the Our Lady of La Naval's coronation on Oct. 4 at the Sto. Domingo Church. Exhibits, seminars, concerts, and novenas, started yesterday and would run until the Virgin Mary's feast day on Oct. 14. The feast day of the Blessed Mother is celebrated every second Sunday of October.

Since 1907, when the Our Lady of Naval was crowned, dedicating processions and Masses in honor of the Blessed Mother has become tradition, Rev. Louie Coronel, chair of the Centennial Committee on Media Promotions, told the INQUIRER in aninterview.

Recently, the Church decided to add other activities such as concerts to further reach out to Mary's devoted followers. The celebration even has an official theme song, "Salamat Maria," composed by Vehnee Saturno. A website for the Our Lady of La Naval will also be launched soon.

"The people's support has been nothing less but overwhelming," said Jeffrey Aytona, chair of the Serenata musical tribute. Rev. Coronel added that even though they do not have an exact count of how many devotees come every year, followers come all the way from Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Laguna to join the procession and novenas.

Father Dagohoy refused to give an amount on how much budget they had allocated for this grand celebration, saying they are still assessing their expenses. He said, however, that money and free services for the festivities voluntarily came from the people through donations and sponsorships.

"Funds we may get from these activities will be given to the Virgin's 'favored children,'" Father Dagohoy added, referring to poor children who benefit from their social and missionary services.

The celebration for the Our Lady of Naval started in the 17th century when the victory of combined Filipino-Spanish forces against the Dutch, who were trying to conquer the area, was attributed to the Blessed Mother.

Chief Justice orders probe of judge who allegedly sells warrants

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE PERSISTENT WRITE-UPS of my friend and fellow columnist, Jarius Bondoc, on the questionable $329-million contract for the national broadband network project are bearing fruit.

Jarius' series of exposés on the controversial deal in his column for another paper was like a voice in the wilderness.

Nobody listened to him until a lawmaker came up with a privilege speech denouncing the alleged corruption that attended the signing of the contract.

One of a columnist's uplifting moments is when readers start to say of his or her advocacy that "He's (she's) right, after all."

Congratulations, buddy!

***

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has gotten himself embroiled in the scandal, said that at least two influential personalities—"the Big One and the Little One"—had allegedly taken a slice of the kickbacks from the ZTE contract.

He said $85 million in kickbacks was meant for the pair, and the overprice balance to equally corrupt officials at the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

The public knows who those corrupt DOTC officials are.

But, please, Ping, don't hold us in suspense. Tell us who the Little One and the Big One are. If I know Lacson, he'll keep the public guessing.

I'm reminded of a gay beauty parlor attendant who keeps his customers guessing about the identities of personalities who are the subjects of his gossip.

"*Ay, Tita*, I won't tell you the name of the actress who's dating the politician. It's up to you to find out for yourself," the guy would say, with a flip of his dainty fingers.

***

In previous columns, I said that J.J. Yambao, president of IBC 13 television network (not chair, as I reported earlier), is the son-in-law of El Shaddai founder and leader Mike Velarde.

(The IBC 13 chair is former Sen. Orly Mercado).

Yambao should have resigned as top honcho of the government-sequestered station after talk circulated that Mike Velarde was planning to buy the station.

Being IBC president, Yambao has access to documents about the station that would give undue advantage to his father-in-law over the other potential buyers.

Talk about *delicadeza!*

***

In last Saturday's column, a Manila regional trial court judge was featured for allegedly conniving with corrupt police and NBI agents in stealing from the stores of mainland Chinese merchants in Baclaran and Divisoria.

The Manila judge, according to my sources, issues search warrants indiscriminately. He allegedly gets either P100,000 per warrant or is given his share of the loot that raiders confiscate from the traders.

Here's bad news for the concerned judge (and good news for citizens who want to keep the judiciary clean):

My sources in the Supreme Court say Chief Justice Reynato Puno is having the judge investigated.

The Chief Justice knows the identity of the judge alluded to in Saturday's column.

I hate to tell investigators how to go about their mission, but may I suggest they list down the search warrants issued by the judge and the amount of goods confiscated as a result of those warrants?

Where are the confiscated goods kept as evidence?

I was told that hundreds of thousands of pesos worth of goods are taken by the NBI or the police for each raid. The goods are loaded on trucks.

Chances are the judge can't present the confiscated goods because they had been divided among the raiders and the magistrate.

Or the warrants would appear to have been returned, with the note from the raiders that the raid yielded negative results.

METROBRIEFS

Curfew for minors

A 10 P.M.-4 A.M. curfew for minors in Manila will be strictly implemented starting today on orders of acting city Mayor Isko Moreno. The official directed Manila Police District station chiefs to follow Ordinance 8046 to help prevent minors from getting involved in various crimes that occur at night. Barangay officials and watchmen are also authorized to apprehend violators of the curfew ordinance. ***Allison W. Lopez***

Pasig turns green

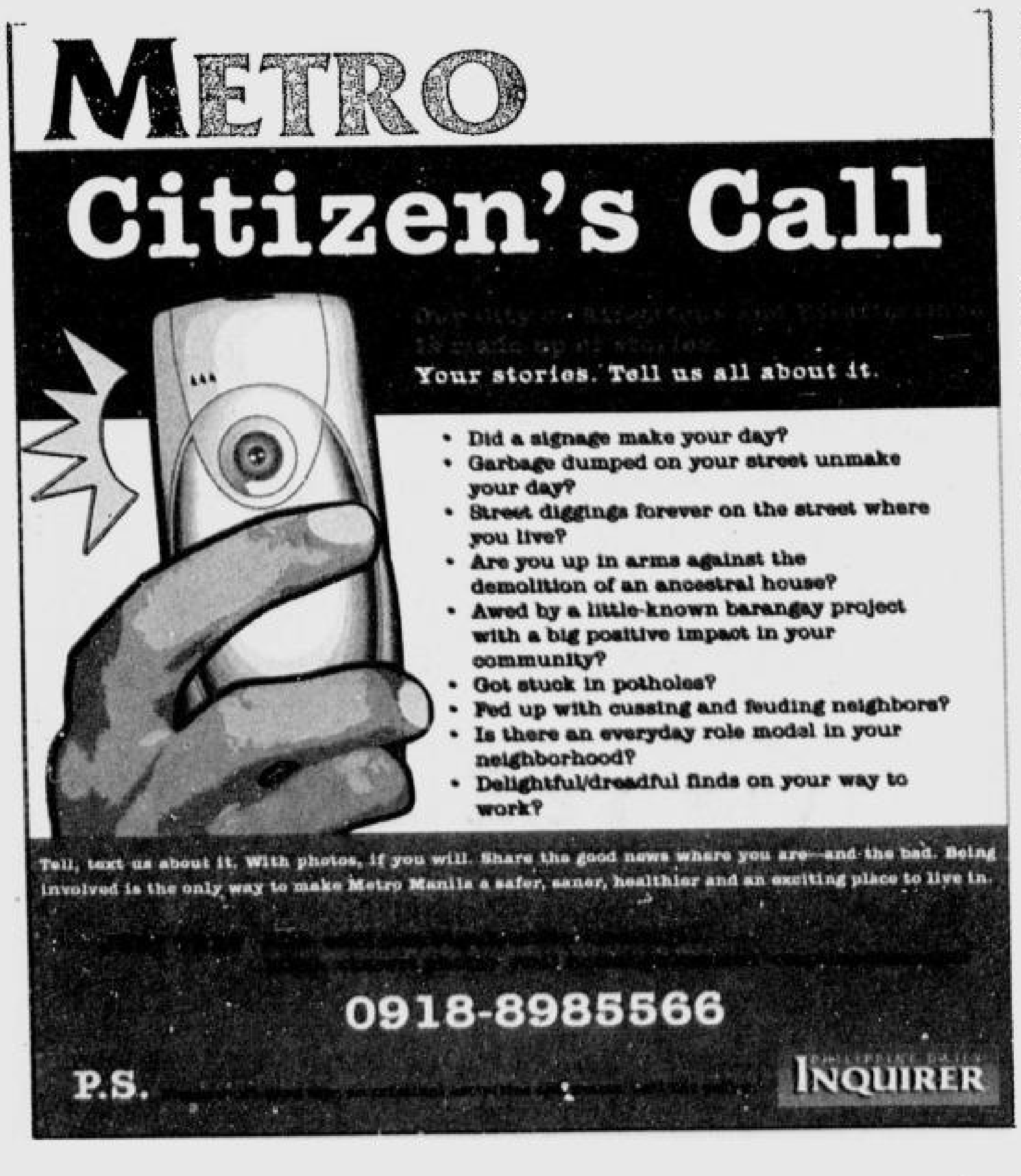
THE PASIG City government intends to plant 20,000 trees by 2010 to combat the "carbon stink." Pasig City Mayor Robert Eusebio launched this week the Berdeng Bayan Tree Growing Project, aimed at ensuring that there will be at least one tree for every Pasigueño by 2010. The program also targets the creation of mini-forests, nature parks, greenbelts and pocket gardens in the city. ***Kristine L. Alave***

Read-Along today

LITTLE Miss Earth 2007 Angel Mikaela Abuan will be the guest reader for the INQUIRER Read-Along program at 10 a.m. today. The INQUIRER Read-Along, which aims to impart the love of reading to children aged 7 to 13, is held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month at the INQUIRER main office on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati City. Interested parties may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at Tel. No. 897-8808, local 329. Those interested in donating books for the program may also send an e-mail to inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph.

Alpha Phi Beta forum

JUST how will former Environment secretary Heherson Alvarez defend the new Mining Law as the new mining czar? How will Sen. Chiz Escudero handle the country's worsening budget crisis? Find out during the UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity Chancery's breakfast-forum at the UP Balay Kalinaw on Sept. 10 at 8:30 a.m. Reactors include UP Professors Eduardo Labitag, Temario Rivera and Ramon Esguerra, journalist Nelson Navarro, lawyers Alex Poblador and Sim Buyco and former Overseas Workers Welfare Administrator Angelo "Gigil" Jimenez. For reservations, contact Ems at 448-6445 or 376-5504, Alpha Phi Beta Chancery.



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- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

Tell, text us about it. With photos, if you will. Share the good news where you are—and the bad. Being involved is the only way to make Metro Manila a safer, saner, healthier and an exciting place to live in.

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P.S.

INQUIRER

Come out ...

From page A21

to surface and cooperate in the investigation "is tantamount to obstruction of justice."

Cruz submitted yesterday his affidavit through a messenger, Asis said.

The NBI official said they might resort to other legal remedies since Cruz refused to appear at the NBI. Bureau agents visited his house yesterday but was told he was not home.

Nothing new

Cruz's affidavit did not reveal anything new regarding his involvement in the incident, Asis said. "He admitted that he was with his son Miguel when he took Mendez to the VMMC on Aug. 27. But there was no mention where he got Mendez or if his son was a member of the Sigma Rho," Asis said.

In a related development, the Department of Education directed officials of all elementary and high schools nationwide to monitor closely and strictly enforce its ban on fraternities, sororities and other "secret student organizations."

Secretary Jesli A. Lapus asked school authorities the other day to take a more active role in the prevention of violence also in primary and secondary schools.

The department banned fraternities and sororities in primary and secondary schools in 1991. Lapus also cited Republic Act no. 8049, the "Anti-Hazing Act," which provides strict penalties for hazing and other initiation rites.

The Commission on Higher Education also enjoined officials of colleges and universities to "closely monitor and supervise" student organizations.

Though the CHed did not ban fraternities and sororities, it said officials and members of such organizations faced severe penalties, including expulsion, "in the event of hazing and other fraternity-related acts of violence."

Meanwhile, Gonzalo Duque, president of the 160-member Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities, backed Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago's proposal for the abolition of all fraternities and sororities.

In sympathy

In Los Baños, Laguna, students of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños lit candles Thursday night for Cris, a scene reminiscent of the period when the campus mourned the death of Marlon "Along" Villanueva a year ago.

A UPLB Agricultural Economics student, Villanueva died on Jan. 14, 2006 allegedly during an initiation rite of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity. Two UPLB students and members of APO were charged with violation of the anti-hazing law as a result of the incident.

Mother of missing UK girl to be named a suspect

KATE McCann walking out from a police station in Portimao, southern Portugal on Sept. 7. REUTERS

VIANA DO CASTELO, PORTUGAL—The mother of a British girl who disappeared four months ago in southern Portugal will be named a formal suspect in the case Friday, a family spokesperson said.

Kate McCann was questioned for almost 11 hours on Thursday, and is due back at a police station in Portimao, a town in Portugal's Algarve region, later Friday morning (Saturday in Manila), family spokesperson David Hughes said.

When asked about reports that McCann would be named a suspect in her daughter Madeleine's disappearance, Hughes said: "They told her last night that it would happen to her today. That's definite."

Police summoned McCann after receiving new forensic evidence. Police spokesperson Olegario Sousa said authorities have received some results from forensic tests of the apartment, but declined to elaborate on the findings.

The tests—on specks of blood, items of clothing and other objects in the apartment—were conducted at a British laboratory.

Kate McCann and her husband Gerry, both doctors from central England, have spearheaded an intense media campaign since 4-year-old Madeleine went missing from a holiday apartment in the Algarve where she was sleeping with her 2-year-old twin siblings. The parents say they were at dinner at the time at a nearby restaurant, but were checking on the children frequently.

The McCanns toured Europe with photos and stuffed animals of Madeleine, even meeting with Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican. Celebrities like J.K. Rowling and David Beckham made public appeals that helped the family raise more than one million pounds ($2 million).

Their cause, and the couple's apparent strength in the face of adversity, has hit a nerve among millions, who have followed their lives as they cared for their other children and frequented a local church in Praia da Luz, the seaside town where Madeleine disappeared, and where they stayed ever since. Photographs of the bright-eyed, fair-haired little girl have been posted throughout Europe and elsewhere.

The publicity has helped lead to numerous reported sightings of the girl, from as far away as northern Europe and Morocco, amid speculation she might have been taken by an international pedophile ring.

Hughes said the police have 22 questions that they want to ask Kate McCann, which require her to be made a formal suspect. Under Portuguese law, the legal move grants certain protections to suspects, but allows police more latitude in questioning.

The spokesperson said that Gerry McCann would also meet with police in Portimao, separately, in the afternoon. The couple has maintained their innocence throughout.

Just after Kate McCann entered the police station Thursday, another family representative read out a statement from her appealing to what she called Madeleine's abductors to "do the right thing."

"It is not too late. Please let her go or call the police," she said.

FOUR-YEAR-OLD Madeleine McCann, who was reported missing during a family holiday in the Algarve region of Portugal AP

In recent months, the McCanns have attended meetings with the police together. Officials described those meetings as informal, saying they wanted to keep the parents informed of developments in the case. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

7 US troops killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—The US military said on Friday that insurgents have killed seven American troops in separate attacks in Iraq. Four marines and three soldiers were killed in two different incidents on Thursday, the military said. The marines were killed during combat operations in the restive province of Anbar, west of Baghdad, a statement said. The province, a onetime stronghold of al-Qaida-led Sunni insurgents, has been touted as a counterinsurgency success story by top American officials, including President George W. Bush. The three soldiers were killed in the northern province of Nineveh when insurgents detonated a roadside bomb near their vehicle, the military said. The latest deaths brought the military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 3,749, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures last updated on Thursday. AFP

Indonesia urges action over maid abuse in Malaysia

JAKARTA—Indonesia urged Malaysia on Friday to speed up legal cases against employers accused of abusing Indonesian maids, saying strong punishment will serve as a deterrent. The call came amid tensions between Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur over the alleged assault of an Indonesian karate referee by Malaysian police. Two Indonesian maids had in recent months climbed out of the window of apartments where they worked using a rope, alleging abuse by their Malaysian employers. Last month a Malaysian woman was charged with the murder of her Indonesian maid. More than one million Indonesians work in more affluent Malaysia, including 340,000 who serve as domestic workers. Malaysia says about 1,200 maids flee from the homes of their Malaysian employers each month, but it does not want to legislate on working conditions even though the migrants usually work long hours for low pay. Reuters

Syria accuses Israel of bombing its territory

DAMASCUS—Syria accused Israel of bombing its territory on Thursday and said it could respond to the Jewish state's "aggression and treachery." Israel declined to comment on the charge by Syria, which said no casualties or damage were caused. The Syrian accusation was partly responsible for triggering a rise in world oil prices of more than $1.40 a barrel. "It appears that the Israeli planes were on a reconnaissance mission when they got caught by Syrian defenses and were forced to drop their bombs and extra fuel tanks," said a Western diplomat in Syria's capital Damascus. After months in which talk of reviving long-stalled peace negotiations between neighboring Israel and Syria has been mixed with speculation on both sides that the other was preparing a surprise attack, Syrian officials hit out. "This shows that Israel cannot give up aggression and treachery," Syrian Information Minister Mohsen Bilal said. Reuters

Algeria bomb attack kills 14 ahead of presidential visit

ALGIERS—A suicide bomber killed 14 people when he blew himself up in the Algerian town of Batna on Thursday shortly before a scheduled visit by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the interior minister said. Bouteflika, who later visited some of the dozens wounded in hospital, blamed Islamist rebels, denouncing them as "criminals." Bouteflika accused Islamist militants of trying to scuttle his policy of national reconciliation, which is aimed at ending 15 years of fighting between the army and groups trying to set up a purist Islamic state. "Terrorist acts have absolutely nothing in common with the noble values of Islam," he said. Reuters

iPhone owners crying foul over price cut of over $200

SAN FRANCISCO—In June, they were calling it the God Phone. On Thursday, it was the Chump Phone. People who had rushed to buy the Apple iPhone over the past two months suddenly and embarrassingly found they had overpaid for the year's most coveted gadget by $200. Apple, based in Cupertino, Calif., has made few missteps over the last decade, but it angered many of its most loyal customers by sharply dropping the price of its iPhone to $400 from $600 only two months after it first went on sale. They let the company know on blogs, through e-mails and with phone calls. On Thursday, in a remarkable concession, Steve Jobs acknowledged the company had abused its core customers' trust and extended a $100 store credit to the early iPhone buyers. NYT

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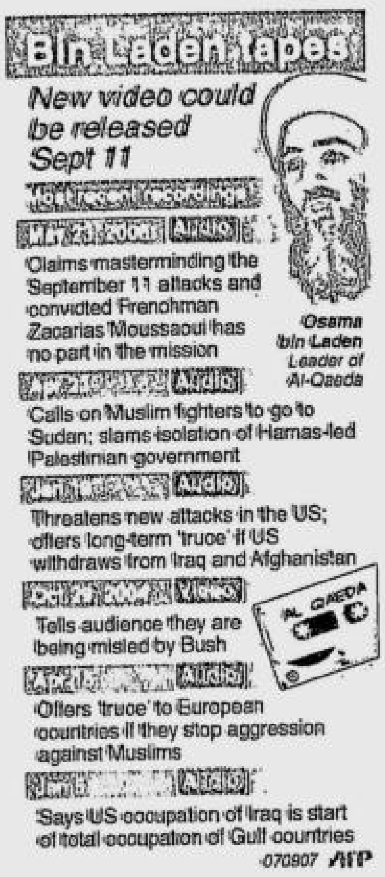
The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bin Laden to taunt US anew in video marking Sept. 11


Bin Laden tapes
New video could be released Sept 11
Audio
Claims masterminding the September 11 attacks and convicted Frenchman Zacarias Moussaoui has no part in the mission
Osama bin Laden Leader of Al-Qaeda
Audio
Calls on Muslim fighters to go to Sudan; slams isolation of Hamas-led Palestinian government
Audio
Threatens new attacks in the US; offers long-term 'truce' if US withdraws from Iraq and Afghanistan
Video
Tells audience they are being misled by Bush
AL QAEDA
Audio
Offers 'truce' to European countries if they stop aggression against Muslims
Audio
Says US occupation of Iraq is start of total occupation of Gulf countries
070907 AFP

WASHINGTON—OSAMA BIN LADEN PLANS TO emerge from the shadows to taunt the United States again in a video message marking the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, US-based monitoring services and a militant website said.

The video from the world's most-wanted man, first announced late Thursday by US services that monitor militant websites, would be the first such appearance by the Saudi extremist since October 2004, when he threatened new attacks against the United States just days before a US election.

A US official said Bin Laden's al-Qaida network was using the media to manipulate and try to terrorize Americans.

"The Site Intelligence Group has learned that a new video message is forthcoming from the head of al-Qaida" on the 9/11 anniversary, said the group, which monitors extremist websites and publications.

The al-Qaida network's media arm, as-Sahab, announced the video in a notice posted on jihadist forums, according to Site.

"Soon, God willing, a videotape from the lion sheikh Osama bin Laden, God preserve him," the notice read.

A website used by Islamist militants that carried the notice showed a photo of Bin Laden in which his black beard did not have the usual streaks of gray.

He was also not wearing a camouflage jacket as in previous appearances. Instead, the top-half photo showed him wearing a white robe topped by a beige cloak, similar to the traditional dress of men in the Gulf region, and looking more like a Muslim cleric than a fighter.

The video of the soft-spoken al-Qaida leader, who has claimed credit for the 9/11 attacks, will be examined intently with every word and visual detail dissected by intelligence agencies in Washington and around the world.

Bin Laden, who has had a number of audiotapes attributed to him since his last video appearance, has avoided capture since the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington that killed nearly 3,000 people.

He has since inspired an eruption of anti-Western attacks while his al-Qaida network has repeatedly threatened to attack US targets again.

The United States said any video message would be followed closely and that the capture of Bin Laden remained a top priority.

"Obviously, it's a huge priority for us to capture and kill Bin Laden and bring him and the rest of the leadership to justice," said Frances Townsend, the US president's homeland security adviser.

Townsend told CNN television that the video, and previous al-Qaida statements, were designed as propaganda to spread fear among Americans.

"We're being manipulated every time that they issue a statement, because they're trying to use the media as a way to terrorize us," she said.

While other senior figures had been tracked down, "there is no greater target on our al-Qaida list than Bin Laden," Townsend said.

She said that while public statements from al-Qaida were monitored, authorities were most concerned about disrupting terrorist conspiracies.

"What I take far more seriously are the plots," she said, citing recent arrests in Germany and Denmark involving alleged terrorist threats. *AFP*

UNDATED photo of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. AP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
OBAYASHI CORPORATION-CHATHAM HOUSE Unit 907 National Insurance Bldg., 6762 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Young Sun Yang Korean	Senior Site Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Masaru Kawahara Japanese	Civil Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Shigeru Yamada Japanese	Project Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Hidemasa Kunimoto Japanese	Project Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Chiaki Hamamoto Japanese	Piping Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Junji Tachibana Japanese	Piping Engineer
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phil. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Takeaki Kozuka Japanese	Mechanical Superintendent
KORNET EXPRESS COURIER SERVICES INC. 707-F Columbia Airfreight Bldg., NAIA Ave., Sto. Niño, Paranaque City	Dong Won Choi Korean	Operation Manager
SEINEDUNET CORPORATION 1 Sta. Escolastica St., Pasay City	Young Jin Hong Korean	Director
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 43/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Itamar Shamshins Israeli	Chief Technology Officer
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 43/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Puxuan Wang Chinese	Chinese Customer Support Associate
BAYVIEW TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 43/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Qiang Wang Chinese	Chinese Customer Support Associate
IVOLINE INCORPORATED Unit 603 Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Peggy Bernadette Anderson American	English Instructor
IVOLINE INCORPORATED Unit 603 Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts, Mandaluyong City	Jung Ok Kim Korean	Director
IVOLINE INCORPORATED Unit 603 Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City	Christopher Michael Dundy American	English Instructor
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Luu Thanh Luan Vietnamese	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking-Officer (Operations)-Unit 3
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VHAGWAN JEE TRADING CORPORATION 61-A Sitio Uno St., Sangandaan, Caloocan City	Ranbir Singh Indian	Operation Manager
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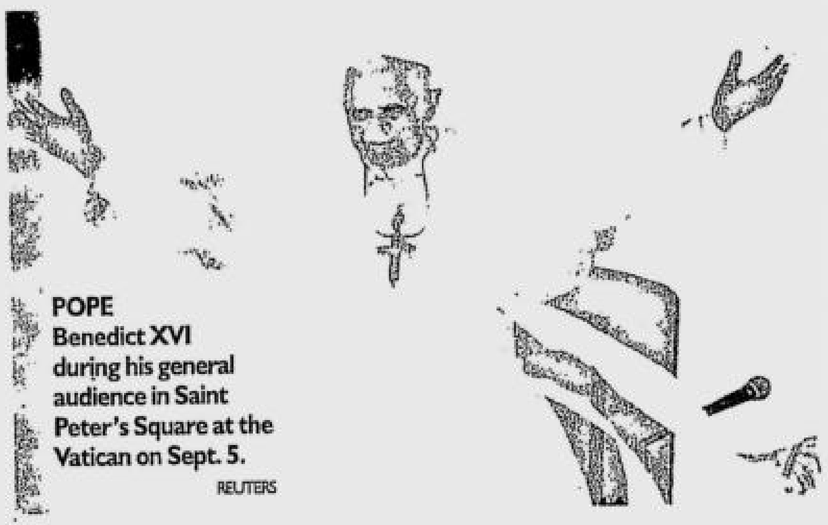
GAMINGWEB, INC. 17/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ha Gia Man Vietnamese	Mandarin/Cantonese Speaking- Officer (Operations)-Unit 3
BRINTONE LEARNING CENTER INC. Unit 19, G/F MSA Prime Center, Prime St., cor. Enterprise St., Madrigal Business Park 2, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Eunsang Kim (w/o Lim) Korean	Administrator
LARSEN & TOUBRO INFOTECH LIMITED 4/F Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Chandrasekaran Nallasamy Indian	Systems Analyst
COMVERSE PHILIPPINES INC. 29/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Anurag Bali Indian	Project Consultant
JC & LEE AQUA MARINE INC. 120 Bethsaida St., Multinational Village, Paranaque City	Nengqiu Wu Chinese	Marine Technician
CEMENTHAI SCT (PHILIPPINES) INC. 112-A Katipunan Avenue, White Plains Subdivision, Quezon City	Jongjit Tangtanakanon Thai	Sales Manager
FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN THE PHILIPPINES-LE CLUB, INC. 1503 Medical Plaza, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Stephane, Andre, Pierre Khaled French	Consultant

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - September 8, 2007)


POPE Benedict XVI during his general audience in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican on Sept. 5. REUTERS

Pope flies to Austria for three-day visit

VIENNA—POPE BENEDICT XVI flew to Vienna on Friday for a three-day visit that will include mass at the 850-year-old pilgrimage site of Mariazell and a visit to a monument to the victims of the Holocaust.

Some 100,000 faithful are expected to turn out for this visit, which seemed bound early Friday to begin under heavy rain in the Austrian capital.

The Pope's visit has been greeted with some criticism in a country where the traditionally powerful Catholic Church is waning in influence.

Statistics show the Austrian Church has lost about one million followers since the late Pope John Paul II first visited in 1983, and only 67 percent of Austrians are still officially Catholic, compared to almost 92 percent in 1900.

Furthermore, only 15 percent of the 5.6 million declared Catholics say they go to church regularly compared to 30 percent 25 years ago.

But Schoenborn told reporters Thursday: "I think what is important in such a visit is not the numbers you can measure but what happens in people's hearts."

A key goal of the visit "is encouraging faith in a time when many are saying that faith has no meaning and is unreasonable."

In a recent letter, the progressive "Wir sind Kirche" (We are the Church) movement called on Benedict XVI to get rid of the vow of celibacy, allow married men to become priests and enable women to become deacons. AFP

Number of suicides rises among US youths

IN A FINDING THAT IS LIKELY to revive a debate of many years about the safety of drugs prescribed for depression, health officials reported Thursday that the rate of suicide in Americans ages 10 to 24 increased eight percent from 2003 to 2004, the largest jump in more than 15 years.

Some psychiatrists argue that the reason for the increase is the decline in prescriptions of antidepressant drugs like Prozac to young people since 2003, leaving more cases of serious depression untreated. Others say that it is impossible to know if the increase is linked to patterns of antidepressant prescriptions. The one-year spike in suicides could be a statistical fluctuation, they say, and not the start of a trend.

The increase was particularly sharp among adolescents, especially girls, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which released the figures. The timing of the increase coincided with a public debate in the United States and overseas over whether the antidepressants increased the risk of suicide in a small percentage of young people who took them. *NYT*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Aunzo amazes with fiery rally /A26

SPORTS

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UE seeks No. 13; Lipa ready to go

RATHER THAN WORRY, UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST COACH **Dindo Pumaren sees his Warriors' recent escape acts as "good experience."**

"We need those kinds of games, especially now that we're nearing the end of the eliminations," he said. "Those games test our composure and I'm happy that the boys are responding well even in tight situations."

Pumaren is referring to UE's scrambling victories over Ateneo, 73-68, on Aug. 12, National University, 70-66, on Aug. 23 and Far Eastern, 79-72, last Saturday.

Another UE win today against University of the Philippines will push the Warriors within a win of an outright championship berth, the incentive given to a team that completes a 14-0 sweep of the UAAP elimination round.

"Believe it or not, we're not looking that far ahead," said Pumaren as the Warriors gear up for their 13th straight victory against the winless Maroons at 2 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We prepare for each game, so our focus now is just UP," he added. "We're only thinking of going for win No. 13."

But a win is more crucial for the Far Eastern Tamaraws and the National U Bulldogs, who will be slugging for survival at 4 p.m.

Ranked in the bottom four, both squads will be teetering on the edge of elimination if they lose one of their last two games.

The Tamaraws—who gave the Warriors a scare last week—lost three of their last four matches to drop to fifth place at 6-6.

Another loss will put the Tamaraws in danger of missing the Final Four for the second straight season after bagging the title in 2005.

Unlike the Tamaraws, the Warriors have a lot of reliable hands to turn to in every game.

"Even if we're assured of the top spot, I tell the boys there should be no let up," said Pumaren.

The Warriors clobbered the Maroons, 97-66, in the first round.

And last Thursday, coach Joe Lipa assumed responsibility for the Maroons' woeful campaign after absorbing a severe 34-point beating, 93-59, at the hand of the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

"A lot of groups are lobbying for me to be out," admitted Lipa.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	12	0
La Salle	9	3
Ateneo	8	4
Santo Tomas	7	5
Far Eastern	6	6
National U	5	7
Adamson	1	11
UP	0	12

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WANG

TORRE

Asian chess tourney draws 35-plus GMs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ALL THE COUNTRY'S FIVE GRANDmasters clash with at least 30 other GMs when the Asian individual chess championship comes off the wraps on Sept. 19 at the Cebu International Convention Center in Cebu City.

GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Nelson Mariano II, Bong Villamayor and Mark Paragua will compete with some of the region's super GMs in the $40,000 event that invited only those with Elo ratings of 2300 and above.

"China and India have already confirmed the participation of their players, assuring a strong field similar to that which took part when we last held the chess Olympiad in 1992," said National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

Speaking at the Scoop Kamayan session sponsored by Accel and Teletech, Pichay said the top 10 placers will represent the region in the World Cup slated in November in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia.

Other countries which have confirmed participation are Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Chinese Taipei, Iran, Mongolia, Malaysia, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

"With the confirmation of these countries, the tournament has already been assured of at least 30 GMs," said Pichay.

Some 20 Filipino International Masters will also be seeing action in the event, including 13-year-old sensation Wesley So.

Expected to take part are Chinese super GMs Wang Yue (2696), Bu Xiangzhe (2685), Ni Hua (2681), Zhang Pengxiang 2649), Ye Jiangchuan (2632), Wang Hao (2626), GMs Ehsan Ghaem Maghani and Elsha Moradiabadi of Iran, Kishna Sankiran, P. Harikrishna and Suyekh Sheikar Ganguly of India, Utut Adianto and Susano Megaranto of Indonesia.

Aunzo amazes with fiery rally

Ties Fernando on top after qualifier

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—FERDINAND AUNZO knocked in an improbable 40-foot putt for birdie on the final hole yesterday to complete a rally from three shots down in the final two holes and share top honors with Mark Fernando after the marathon NGAP National Qualifiers.

The 27-year-old Aunzo sealed a one-over-par 72 with that sizzler and then watched Fernando bogey the same hole after finding the bunker guarding the front of the green for a 74.

They each wound up with a 581 total to earn the first two spots in the RP squad.

Amateur ace Jay Bayron churned out a 75 at the Riviera's tough Langer course to finish in third spot at 583, with Anthony Fernando a stroke further adrift at 584 after a 74.

Jonel Ababa clinched the team's fifth slot, shooting a final-day 77 marred by a quadruple bogey 8 on No. 11 for 586. He stood eight shots in front of Michael Bibat, the burly Asian Games bronze medalist who fired a 75-594.

"It doesn't matter whether I won or lost today," the 24-year-old Fernando, who held or had at least a share of the lead since after the first 54 holes, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

"The important thing is I now have a chance to play for the country internationally."

Members of RP teams that will play in the Nomura Cup in Taipei next month, the Putra Cup at The Country Club in Laguna in November and the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in December will come from this pool.

"Some of us have waited our whole lives for this chance," Aunzo, a former caddy at Eastridge, said in Filipino.

Putra Cup veteran Tommy Manotoc, who bankrolled the training of Calatagan bets Mark Fernando, Ababa and six others together with sportsman Hermie Esguerra, believes the country now has a chance to regain the Putra Cup.

"Save for Bayron and Bibat, the only thing lacking in this team is international experience," Manotoc said. "But make no mistake about it, what the country has right now is a team that has a deep bench, so to speak."

Mark Fernando held a three-shot lead entering the final two holes. But he three-putted the 156-yard, par-3 17th for bogey before dropping another shot on the 18th.

The Philippines last won the Putra Cup in 1991, with a team bannered by Antonio Lascuna, Richard Sinfuego, Rey Pagunsan and Gerard Cantada.

CLOSING birdie propels Ferdinand Aunzo to a share of championship trophy.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Olympians, Hawks begin title clash

EXPERIENCE VERSUS YOUTH makes an interesting subplot when STI and University of Manila collide today to start their National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball best-of-three championship series at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The STI Olympians, beefed up by veteran acquisitions from other schools, rolled into their third straight championship appearance virtually hassle-free.

"We are getting into shape and the rest of the team is learning how to play as one unit," said STI coach Vic Ycasiano.

The Olympians, runners-up to the UM Hawks and fallen defending champion AMA Titans the past two seasons, is bannered by sophomores Dexter Micutuan, Bimbo Legaspi, Mike Cabangon and Ramon Mabayo.

But their backcourt will be manned by new recruits Raymond Tiongco, Mark Balneg and Howard Flor. Tiongco and Balneg come from NCAA squads Mapua and Letran, respectively, while Flor is a product of the National University in the UAAP.

"Compared to us, they are a very experienced team," said UM president Ernesto delos Santos, who never misses a Hawks game. "Our players are relatively new and the majority came from the junior ranks."

At the forefront of the Hawks' bid is Onofre Napiza, the 2004 junior MVP and 2005 senior Rookie of the Year and mythical five member. The 6-foot-4 Napiza will be supported by 6-foot guard Frank Bonus and wily playmaker Russen Assuncion.

Centro Escolar and AMA clash in a one-game showdown for the women's championship.

Marc Anthony Reyes

GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
9 a.m.—UMAK vs San Sebastian-Cavite (Jrs, 3rd place)
10:30 a.m.—Holy Angel vs St. Clare (W, 3rd place)
12 noon—San Sebastian-Cavite vs AMA (Srs, 3rd place)
1:30 p.m.—CEU vs AMA (W, Finals)
3 p.m.—UM vs St. Clare (Jrs, Finals)
4:30 p.m.—STI vs UM (Game 1)

Miriam tossers, CKSC five out to boost streaks

GAMES TODAY
Basketball (*SSC gym*)
8:30 a.m.—CKSC vs Angelicum (Jrs)
10 a.m.—Miriam vs SBCA (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—SBCA vs SSC (Midgets)
1 p.m.—SSC vs SSHS (Jrs)
2:30 p.m.—SFAC vs LSCA (Jrs)
Volleyball (*RTU gym*)
7:30 a.m.—LSCA vs DLSZ (Jrs)
8:30 a.m.—CKSC vs Miriam (Jrs)
9:30 a.m.—SSHS vs SSC (Midgets)
10:30 a.m.—SFAC vs Miriam (Midgets)
11:30 a.m.—Angelicum vs SSC (Jrs)
12:30 p.m.—SFAC vs SSHS (Jrs)

MIRIAM COLLEGE, Chiang Kai Shek College, La Salle College Antipolo and St. Scholastica's College aim to keep their win streaks alive today in the basketball and volleyball competitions of the 38th WNCAA games.

In the volleyball tournament at the RTU gym, Miriam's midget squad eyes a third win against St. Francis of Assisi College (0-2) at 10:30 a.m. while defending junior champion St. Scholastica's College, unscathed in three matches, goes for win No. 4 at 12:30 p.m., also against St. Francis (0-2).

At the SSC gym where the basketball event is held, CKSC targets its fourth victory against Angelicum College (1-1) in the 8:30 a.m. opener while LSCA, holding a 2-0 card, tackles St. Francis (0-2) at 2:30 p.m.

Other basketball matches pit defending junior champion Miriam (2-1) against San Beda College Alabang (1-2) at 10 a.m.; SBCA versus St. Scho in their debut midgets match at 11:30 a.m.; and St. Scho and St. Stephen's High School, both winless in three starts, at 1 p.m.

LSCA and De La Salle Zobel, meanwhile, race for at least solo second behind St. Scho in junior volleyball when they collide in the first game at 7:30 a.m. Both squads are tied at 2-1.

Either St. Francis or SSHS, both at 0-2, would be out of the cellar after their 11:30 a.m. junior volleyball meeting.

LITTLE OLYMPICS

Sisters of Mary teams zero in on overall title

TWO SCHOOLS RUN BY THE Sisters OF Mary are poised to claim overall supremacy as the 2007 Milo Little Olympics-NCR tournament plays its final track and field events today at the Marikina Sports Park.

After the hard-fought track and field competitions, the defending champion Boystown contingent paces the secondary field with a haul of 13 gold and nine bronze medals, followed closely by Girlstown with a 13-6-5 harvest.

Valenzuela National High School is a distant third with a 1-1-8 tally. Lionel Lacson topped the 5,000-meter event for VNHS' lone victory.

In the elementary level, Valenzuela Central School leads the pack with a 6-0-2 medal output, followed Dr. JP Rizal-Cavite's 5-5-5 and former champion Dr. A. Albert Elementary School's 4-3-5.

The surprisingly competitive Valenzuela Central is eyeing its first overall title.

VISAYAN GAMES UNFOLD

A young shotput bet makes her throw in last year's Milo Little Olympics. Elementary and high school student-athletes from Regions 6, 7 and 8 will vie for gold medals in today's start of hostilities in the Visayan leg of the 2007 games at the Cebu City Sports Complex. Championships will be disputed in athletics, badminton, chess, football, gymnastics, lawn tennis, scrabble, sepak takraw, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, and volleyball over four days, Sept. 8, 9, 15 and 16. The Milo Little Olympics is held annually to promote the country's' sports and youth programs and to develop the country's next sport heroes.

La Salle-Dasma repulses Acsat five

DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE—THE LA Salle-Dasmariñas Patriots leaned on Manuel Anselmo and Angel Salado to pull off a 99-95 overtime upset win over the Asian College of Science and Technology Lightnings in the 6th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball tournament at the DLSU-Dasmariñas gym.

A triple by Anselmo and two free throws by Salado with 2:13 left in extra time broke an 89-all standoff and put the Patriots on top for good, 94-89.

Acsat dropped to third place at 3-2 while La Salle shares fourth place with Las Piñas College at 2-3.

St. Francis of Assisi remained in second place with its fourth victory in five starts after a 78-66 thrashing of Universal College of Nursing.

The Lightnings were all set to take the win in regulation play when Harvey Igtos handed his team an 83-80 spread with a split free throw with 16.2 seconds left.

But Salado sank a triple with 6.2 ticks to go, sending the contest to an extra five-minute period.

In men's volleyball, St. Francis rolled to its third straight win as it downed UCN, 25-20, 25-17, 25-15.

SPORTSWATCH

Ateneo takes on Canossa boys in Petron volley league

ATENEO BATTLES CANOSSA ACADEMY of Lipa City today as action resumes in the Petron Treats Boys' Volleyball League at the Colegio de San Lorenzo Sports Complex. Both two squads won their first match in Bracket A.

Angeles University plays against Cavite School of Life at 1:30 p.m. seeking a third straight win in Bracket C.

St. Joseph's College tries to improve its 2-1 record in Bracket D when it clashes with St. Mary's QC at 3:30 p.m.

On Sunday, Imus Institute takes on St. Jude at 1:30 p.m. and then CSOL at 4:30. In between, St. Francis of Assisi-Taguig collides with St. Joseph QC at 2:30 p.m.

The last game on Sunday pits Bracket D leader Claret School QC (3-0) against St. Mary's at 3:30 p.m.

Interclub home-and-away tennis tourney under way

PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION, led by former RP Davis Cuppers Michael Misa and Junjun Toledo, takes on newcomer Acropolis Tennis Club today in the 2007 Babolat Home and Away Interclub Team Tennis at the Acropolis gym.

Valle Verde, spearheaded by former junior standouts Randy Villanueva, Derrick Santos and Tonito Payumo, faces Mandaluyong Tennis Club while Mandaluyong Lawn Tennis Club, led by Junior Davis Cup and World Junior Championships veteran Mark Balce, battles Celebrity Sports Club.

Tomorrow's matches are Celebrity against Acropolis at 9 a.m., Valle Verde versust PCA at 1 p.m. and MLTC against MTC at 2.

NCFP exec chess begins

UNESCO OFFICER WILFRED DUMADAG and businessman Albert Rivera head the list bidders in the First NCFP Executives and Professionals Chess Challenge which gets going today at Greenhouse Grill at 31 Matalino Street, Diliman, Quezon City.

NCFP executive director Samuel Estimo and six-time RP executive champion Dr. Jenny Mayor are also vying in the event.

The Swiss system Active tournament will be played over seven rounds.

Gracing the opening ceremonies are NCFP officials and guests including Grandmaster Eugene Torre who will do the ceremonial moves with NCFP chair Quezon City Rep. Matias V. Defensor.

Makati 5-cocker gets going

A POWERHOUSE GROUP OF GAMECOCK breeders from Northern Luzon challenges its Metro Manila counterparts starting at 4 p.m. today in the Sitio Maumel 5-Stag Derby at the Makati Coliseum.

Rainier Kau of Ilocos Norte, winner of the first National Bakbakan 8-stag derby, will host today's showdown.

Gearing up for battle today are Rudy Albano, Arman Santos, Madlambayan Brothers, Ric Aquino, Super Pacman group, Richard Bates, Col. Necy Katigbak, Fort Ilocandia group, Blandy Tolentino, Tony Marfori, Mayor Salvador Perez, Tony Tan, Ram Lopez, Ric Aquino, among others.

Stag Fest 2nd round today

ROUND TWO OF ROLIGON MEGA COCKpit's Stag Festival 5-Stag Derby takes center stage at 5 p.m. today with some 70 fights lined up.

Eleven participants lead the competition after tallying 2 points each last Thursday—Melton Cuadra with his entry Toto II, Jed Ramos (Joram), E. Garcia (Balbon), Jo Bautista (RG Edza), Cesar Pedraja (CJ Pagaspas), Ruben Rabutin (Sudden Strike), Moling Dorado (El Terible), Noli Bautista (King Jeric), Bebot Reyes (Kyle Clarence) and Ricky Peleya (Eddie Kiliti).

Host Rolly Ligon said the championship round will be held on Monday with 30 new participants fielding straight five stags.

SJC Cockers Club derby on

TOUGH MATCHES RESUME AT SAN JUAN Coliseum today as the SJC Cockers Club 5-Stag Derby series kicks off with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor.

Now bigger and stronger, the SJC Cockers Club boasts 38 members, including Patrick Antonio, Rodolfo Pineda, Rey Briones, Sam Mendoza, Vice Mayor Bogs Violago, Rudy Albano, Max Roxas, John Capinpin, Osang dela Cruz, Bobby Doromal, Tony Manalansan and Sonny Lagon.

The group will hold six derbies to determine the Stagfighter of the Year. The championship round is set on Nov. 14.

Norwood heads cast of future PBL stars

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE WILL BE NO SHORTAGE OF STARS after all.

Amateur sensation Gabe Norwood heads the cast of foreign-born Filipino players expected to fill in the spots left by several PBL stalwarts who crossed over to the professional league just recently.

Norwood expressed his intention to join the PBL after suiting up as a second-string wingman for the San Miguel-RP squad in the FIBA Asia championship recently in Japan.

Along with the 6-foot-5 Norwood—who starred for George Mason University in the US NCAA—several collegiate standouts are also keen on joining the rookie draft on Sept. 28 at the PBL office in Pasig.

"The league lost a great number of its marquee players but I'm confident a new batch of exciting players will rise and take the spotlight," said league commissioner Chino Trinidad.

PBL'S TRUMP CARD: Filipino-American Gabe Norwood

He noted that several foreign-born Filipinos have signified interest to see action in the Invitational Cup set to start Oct. 20.

Also lured to sign up for the draft are UAAP and NCAA standouts such as James Martinez of the University of the East, Ateneo's Jai Reyes, Eric Salamat and Ken Barracoso, La Salle's Peejay Barua, Far Eastern's Mac Baracael, University of the Philippines' Woody Co and Migs de Asis, San Beda's Garvo Lanete and Jose Rizal's John Wilson.

"There are lots of talents around, so I'm confident we can 'discover new ones," said Trinidad, who downplayed the departure of trop draws from the league, including Fil-Am center Joe Devance, picked first in the recent PBA draft, Samigue Eman, Ryan Reyes, JC Intal and Ken Bono.

Players from the Visayas and Mindanao may submit their application forms before the rookie camp on Sept. 26. Applicants must not have reached 27 years old on opening day.

Unlike in past seasons, the league will start conducting the draft only once a year.

"Failure to join the coming draft, [players] will have to wait for another year before they can play in the league," said PBL executive director Butch Maniego.

Pacquiao sharpens powerful right hook

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

IF MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA EXPECTS Manny Pacquiao to be the same fighter who dealt him a beating four years ago, the Hall of Fame-bound Mexican will be in for a surprise.

The Filipino ring icon, under the guidance of renowned trainer Freddie Roach, will unravel new weapons and techniques when he fights Barrera anew on Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

Those who have seen Pacquiao train at the Rex "Wakee" Salud gym in Cebu City swear that the World Boxing Council international super flyweight titlist is working on a devastating right hook to boost his arsenal.

This early, the effect is already noticeable with Pacquiao's sparmates—Mexicans Raymundo Beltran and David Rodela and Filipino Aaron Melgarejo—taking the brunt of the heavy punches that also include hooks to the body and side of the head.

Pacquiao's conditioning coach, former two-division world champion Dodie Boy Peñalosa, said the GenSan lefty did nine rounds of sparring yesterday, bringing to 54 the total number of rounds he has sparred so far.

Roach has said that Pacquiao should have about 130 rounds of sparring before he leaves on Sept. 22 for Los Angeles, where he will stay for one week before heading out for Las Vegas.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao will make a quick trip to Manila today to finalize deals with a television company regarding Pacquiao-Barrera II.

"He's leaving for Manila tomorrow," Salud told the INQUIRER yesterday. "I'll accompany him but he'll be back immediately."

SEAG athletes down to 495

By June Navarro

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Games Task Force has pruned down the list of athlete-candidates closer to the level that the budget earmarked for the participation of the RP delegation can accommodate.

Commissioner Joey Mundo of the Philippine Sports Commission revealed that from 609 aspirants, the figure was brought down to 492, 45 of whom would finance their trip during the Thailand Games on Dec. 6-16.

Meanwhile, PSC commissioner Leon Montemayor yesterday said he has not received a formal communication from Malacañang stating that his courtesy resignation has been accepted.

"We tendered our courtesy resignation in June but we still don't know if we have been re-appointed or not," he said.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
(Public Estates Authority)
7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St.,
Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos.: (02) 817-4711 to 13: (02) 813-1441 to 45 • Facsimile No.: (02) 815-2662
Website: www.pea.gov.ph • Email: info@pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

TEN (10) – HECTARE BASECO RECLAMATION PROJECT (INFR 07-016)
Engineering Island, North of South Harbor, Port Area, Manila

The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippines Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: **TEN (10) – HECTARE BASECO RECLAMATION PROJECT**
Location	: Engineering Island, North of South Harbor, Port Area, Manila
Brief Description	: The Project will involve the island reclamation of ten (10) hectares, inclusive of the areas for roads and open spaces. The land shall be developed into mixed residential and commercial uses and shall be owned by the National Government (NG), which shall make the area available to the market for its intended land uses. The land shall be available by June 2008.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: **Two Hundred Fifty-Two Million Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 252,200,000.00)**, Philippine Currency
Contract Duration	: Six (6) Months

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License with Category of Large A or above, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check / Screening as well as Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Third Edition.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 18-25, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 18-25, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 26-October 3, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 9-12, 2007
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 16-23, 2007
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 30, 2007 (10:00 AM)
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 14, 2007 (1:15 PM)

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the PRA Office, 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, upon their submission of the LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) to the PRA Cashier**. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount **Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00)** to the PRA Cashier.

The PRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. The PRA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **JAIME R. MILLAN**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–September 8 & 17, 2007)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Official Depository Bank of the Republic of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The **Land Bank of the Philippines** invites interested parties to bid for the following properties on **CASH and "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" BASIS**:

Item No.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	Two (2) parcels of comm'l/ind'l land; TA: 10.156 sq.m.	Amang Rodriguez Ave. cor. B. Soliven St., Bo. Manggahan, Pasig City	P95,745,000.00
2	37,364 sq.m. agri land	Bo. Patiis, San Mateo, Rizal	P 7,472,000.00
3	88.48 sq.m comm'l lot with 3-storey comm'l townhouse	Unit 10, BSA Commercial Center, Shaw Blvd.,Mandaluyong City	P 5,200,000.00
4	3,925 sq.m. parcel of res'l lot	Ilaor Norte, Oas, Albay	P 2,552,000.00
5	66 sq.m. res'l land w/2-storey bldg.	Azucena St., De Castro Subd., Pasig City	P 1,585,000.00

Sealed bids together with the 10% bid bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check will be received by the Special Assets Department (SPAD), 30th Floor, Landbank Plaza, Malate, Manila on **September 28, 2007**, not later than **12:00 nn.**

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be followed immediately by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The increase in the open bidding shall be in multiples of P10,000.00.**

The Bid Documents will be available at the Special Assets Dept. (c/o May or Tiffany) starting September 10, 2007.

The Pre-Bid Conference will be held on September 20, 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the 30th Floor Conference Room, Landbank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar St., Malate.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as the legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"** basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

For more information, please visit or call the SPAD at telephone no. 551-2200 locals 2374, 2481, 7248, 2482, 7645.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI–Sept. 8, 2007)

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sbma

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Bldg. 255, Barryman St., Subic Bay Freeport Zone Philippines 2222
Tel Nos. (6347) 252-4214/4230/4282 • Fax: (6347) 252-4284/4251

ISO 9001 TÜV CERTIFIED

SBMA-BAC-INV-11-07
Various Equipment
SBMA, SBFZ

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The SUBIC BAY METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY (SBMA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder items:

Lot #	Items to Bid	Approved Budget Cost (ABC)
LOT I	Various Air-conditioning Units for SBMA Departments	P 3,398,155.00
LOT II	Various Construction Supplies	P 1,774,214.30
LOT III	Oils and Lubricants	P 1,479,676.00
LOT IV	Various Traffic Signages	P 1,297,598.00

Prospective bidders must be manufacturers or authorized distributors of the above-mentioned supplies and equipments for bidding, must have proof of completion for the delivery of the same and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use a non-discretionary ***"pass/fail"*** criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 17-24, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	BAC Secretariat Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.
2. Pre-Bid Conference	September 24, 2007 2:00 p.m./Monday	PPMD Conference Room Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.
3. Submission/ Opening of Bids	October 10, 2007 2:00 p.m./Wednesday	Procurement and Property Management Dept. (PPMD) Rm. 201, Bldg. 255, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders only upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***P2,500.00*** for Lot I and ***P1,500.00*** each for Lots II to IV to the SBMA Treasury Dept., Bldg. 229, Barryman Road, SBFZ.

The SBMA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOCELYN G. ALVARADO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 1 & 8, 2007)

PSALM
POWER SECTOR
ASSETS & LIABILITIES
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (*"PSALM"*) Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee (*the "Committee"*) invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the privatization of the following:

The Generation Package consisting of the 192.5 MW Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant located in Puhagan, Valencia, Negros Oriental and the 146.5 MW Panay Diesel Power Plant located in Tinocuan, Dingle, Iloilo

(*the* "Asset"). The Asset is being privatized on an "as is where-is" basis and will include a power supply allocation. The Committee reserves the right at any time prior to the Documentary Deliverables Deadline (as defined in the Bidding Procedures) to determine the final Asset to be sold. Hence, the Asset that will be the subject of the bid may consist of both the Palinpinon Plant and the Panay Plant, the Palinpinon Plant alone, or the Panay Plant alone.

Interested parties must submit a Letter of Interest (*"LOI"*) to the Committee which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. All LOIs must be received by the Committee at the PSALM Office with address at the 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than **5:00 p.m. on 17 September 2007** (the *"LOI Submission Deadline"*). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, both in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand U.S. Dollars (U.S.$ 2,000.00) (the *"Participation Fee"*). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking, and Participation Fee must be received by the Committee on or before **5:00 p.m. on 19 September 2007** to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package which includes the Bidding Procedures shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from **17 September until 26 September 2007** (the *"Deadline"*) at the PSALM Office. Only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or consortium (as described below) will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements. Once an interested party submits the Confidentiality Agreement and Undertaking and pays the Participation Fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Bidding Procedures, among the requirements of which are (i) such interested party must own at least a majority of the shares outstanding and entitled to vote in such consortium; (ii) the consortium must be a juridical entity; and (iii) a letter requesting to bid through consortium must be submitted to the Committee on or before the deadline set for the same in the Bidding Procedures.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence	: 17 September 2007 to 3 December 2007
Pre-Bid Conference	: 28 September 2007, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Bid Submission Deadline	: 5 December, 12:00 noon at the PSALM Office

References to the dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Interested Parties will be required to post a bid security equivalent to Eight Million U.S. Dollars (U.S.$8,000,000.00) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit which must be acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be subsituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. The details of the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 7th Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Froilan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telefax number (632) 892-6029 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) **ANGELO T. REYES**
Chairman
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 7, 8 & 9, 2007)

SLEEVES rolled up and shorts pulled downwards to exaggerate length? That's Novak Djokovic doing his Rafael Nadal impersonation.

REUTERS

Djokovic a serious threat

Comical Serbian reaches first US Open semifinal

NEW YORK—NOVAK DJOKOVIC OF SERbia beat Spaniard Carlos Moya, 6-4, 7-6 (7), 6-1, at the US Open on Thursday to reach his third consecutive Grand Slam semifinal.

Facing a set point in a tight tiebreaker, No. 3 Djokovic kept dribbling the ball, bouncing it 28 times in all.

Eventually, he tossed the ball overhead—and hit a fault. Djokovic cut his total to 13 bounces, hit a 113 mph (182 kph) second serve, and won the point.

"This is just a matter of concentration. I'm trying to really focus and not irritate anybody. Sorry if I'm a bit annoying," Djokovic said. "The thing is, I want to stay longer on this court, so that's why I'm bouncing more and more."

Prodded by a TV interviewer, Djokovic stuck around after the match to treat the fans to two of his impressions of other players. First he did his take on Maria Sharapova, then Rafael Nadal, both to loud laughs from the crowd.

"It's funny. He does it very well. That's a gift," Moya said, referring to Djokovic's renditions. "If he doesn't succeed in tennis, he has a career in that."

"I enjoyed it," Djokovic said. "I'm really happy the people accepted it in a positive way, not trying to make fun of Maria or Rafa or anybody else, just trying to make people laugh and enjoy and have a good time."

The third seed whose name is aptly pronounced "Joke-o-vic" used his skills at exaggerated mannerisms first as Sharapova, tucking in his shirt, skipping and bouncing beyond the baseline, then sticking out his chest as he walked.

From the baseline, Djokovic mimicked the Russian beauty by slowly smoothing back his hair over each ear, then lifting his arm and bouncing the ball high before firing off a serve.

To impersonate Nadal, Djokovic rolled up the sleeves of his shirt, bent over to adjust his shoes, raced to the baseline and repeatedly grabbed and tugged at his shorts.

"These are just some of the things I usually do to make people laugh. This is one of the ways I like to relax and smile," said Djokovic.

Asked if there was a player he had yet to master copying, Djokovic named the same player he has yet to master on the court—Swiss world No. 1 Roger Federer.

"The untouchable one, Roger, he's too perfect for my style," Djokovic said. "Plus I don't have long hair. I hope he doesn't hear this."

Unlike at the French Open, where he lost to Nadal, and at Wimbledon, where he quit because of an injury while losing to Nadal, Djokovic will finally face a different foe.

In Saturday's semifinals, he'll meet No. 15 David Ferrer—who just happens to be the man who ran Nadal ragged in the Open's fourth round. Ferrer reached his first major semifinal by beating No. 20 Juan Ignacio Chela, 6-2, 6-3, 7-5, Thursday. *AP, AFP*

DA enforces PRC ban on imported Australian horses

By Musong R. Castillo and Amy R. Remo

AFTER THE PHILIPPINE RACING Commission, the Department of Agriculture has also ordered an indefinite ban on the importing of racehorses from Australia because of the outbreak of the Equine Influenza (EI).

The ban came through a memorandum issued by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap and at the heels of the EI outbreak that was reported in Centennial Park in Sydney, New South Wales last Aug. 24.

Equine influenza is a strain of virus belonging to the same group of viruses that causes human flu and flu-like symptoms in horses.

Philracom chair Florencio Fianza was the first to impose a ban after Randwick, one of the most advanced racetracks Down Under, was shut down two weeks ago when four horses were found to be nursing high temperatures.

"Until such time that the Australian authorities declare that the problem (EI outbreak) is solved, the ban will be in place," Fianza said. "It is a drastic step, but we have to be able to do whatever is necessary so that this problem does not reach our shores."

The Philracom, in cooperation with Australian authorities, already stopped a shipment of about 35 racehorses which were supposed to arrive last Sept. 5.

Right now, more than 75% of all imported horses campaigning in the local tracks have come from Australia.

Millions of dollars will be lost each day in Australia while the ban is in place as 400 horses belonging to 53 other stables have now shown symptoms of the disease.

Yap said in the memorandum that there is a need to prevent the entry of Australian horses to protect the health of the local equine population.

According to the University of Sydney, the contagious disease can be spread easily through nasal discharge and from things like infected brushes and rugs.

It was also reported that there is almost a 100-percent infection rate in a population that has been previously unexposed to the virus.

Yap has ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry to immediately suspend the processing, evaluation of the application and the issuance of the Veterinary Quarantine Clearance to import horses from Australia.

Ferrari tops Monza practice; 'spy' case takes a new twist

MONZA, ITALY—KIMI RAIKKONEN TOPPED the times for Ferrari in Friday morning's opening practice for Sunday's Italian Grand Prix, the 27-year-old Finn outpacing teammate Felipe Massa by one-tenth of a second.

On a clear morning at the famous old Monza circuit, the two Ferrari drivers set the pace ahead of their McLaren rivals—championship-leading Briton Lewis Hamilton, who was third fastest, and defending drivers' world champion Spaniard Fernando Alonso, fourth.

Off the circuit, the two teams are caught in a new twist surrounding the "spy story" that has overshadowed much of this season.

According to the latest reports in Italian media, McLaren, it is claimed, has been not only in possession of many of Ferrari's technical secrets this year, but also using them to its advantage. This, it is said, is the conclusion drawn from the latest evidence presented to the sport's ruling body, the International Motoring Federation (FIA). *AFP*

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AN IMAGE in the mural gives visitors a peek at the Philippine underwater world.

Philippine dive sites make a splash in Beijing exhibit

By Jasmine W. Payo

BEIJING—AT THE HEART OF THE exhibit hall of the 2007 China Dive exhibition is a luminous underwater photo mural that never fails to captivate visitors.

The mural is an image-based invitation to take a plunge in the Philippine seas. And judging by the queue at the booth that leads to the exhibition, indications are that the mural is doing its job as far as drawing the curiosity of foreign divers.

"Diving is a recreational sport; you need physical fitness to support your safety," said Filipino-Chinese dive master Ding Bang Ho.

"Why are we promoting diving in the Philippines? So that people will realize that we have such beauty in the country and it will be protected."

The mix of sports and tourism may potentially turn into one of the country's drawing powers—or better yet, one of its economic top-grossers.

"Divers visiting the Philippines return by an average of 10 trips each; this is due to the rich and varied underwater scenery," Jazmin Esguerra, tourism attaché of the Philippine embassy in China, said during the exhibition, an international trade exhibit, conference and networking event held here.

And there's a good reason the Philippines want to build on the enthusiasm of mainland China's diving community.

"China has a billion in population, but their total number of divers is just 30,000; they're just starting," noted Simon So, a full-time dive guide and scuba instructor accredited by the international Professional Association of Diving Instructors.

"We need to generate more divers and create the interest that the Philippines is an ideal dive site for them."

The Philippines has more than 60 dive sites including the Tubbataha Reef and Busuanga in Palawan, Anilao in Batangas, Puerto Galera in Mindoro and Malapascua in Cebu.

There are also 25 shipwreck sites in the country that more adventurous divers can explore.

"The Philippines can be the best dive destination for those interested to start learning the sport," noted Esguerra.

And expert divers guarantee that anyone can easily make a splash in the diving scene.

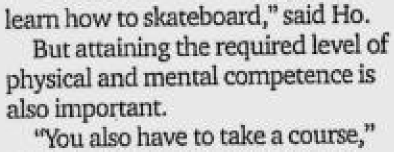
"It's easier to learn diving than to learn how to skateboard," said Ho.

But attaining the required level of physical and mental competence is also important.

"You also have to take a course," said Ho. "A lot of people say that learning how to dive is like learning to drive a car. If you know how to snorkel, you can take an introductory diving course and go down to 15 feet. But in diving, there's also the physics on the expansion of liquid and air. There are lessons."

Divers assured, though, the course is not as intimidating as it sounds.

"It's not that technical," said So. "Since we're not born to be under the water, there are things we just have to learn."



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Forex reserves breached $30-B mark in Aug.

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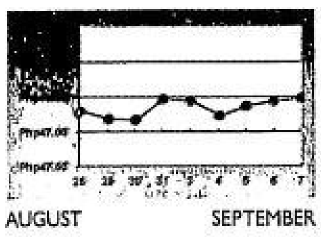


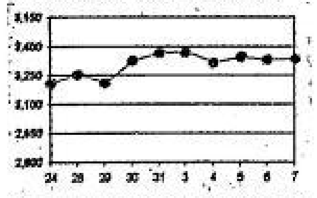
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 46.53 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 7, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares rise on mining interest



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK PRICES CLOSED 0.2-PERcent higher yesterday, lifted by strong interest in the country's largest mining company, dealers said.

They said the rise, however, was weighed down by mixed signals from overseas markets and continuing concerns over domestic political developments.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 6.44 points to close at 3,332.97 after moving between 3,313.69 and 3,337.87. Volume totaled 6 billion shares worth P3.5 billion.

SHARES/ B2

Investment inflows, remittances offset flight of 'hot money'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES BREACHED the $30-billion mark in August despite the global financial volatility that tempered the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' dollar purchases during the month.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that the country's gross international reserves surged to $30.3 billion last month, or $2.3 billion higher than the level as of end-July.

The latest figure has exceeded the BSP's revised yearend GIR target of $30 billion announced only last Friday.

"Sustained foreign exchange inflows enabled the BSP to build up its reserves level while at the same time service its debt and those of the national government's," Tetangco said.

"Receipts of income from investment abroad also contributed to the increase in the GIR level," he said.

The GIR is a key indicator of a country's ability to cover the foreign exchange requirements of the economy. It consists of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, foreign investments and special drawing rights (the currency used by the International Monetary Fund).

In terms of reserve adequacy, the current GIR level can cover 5.6 months' worth of imports of goods and payments of services and income. It is also equivalent to 5.9 times the country's short-term external debt.

The GIR rose last month despite net outflows of foreign investments in stocks and

FOREX/ B2

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Asian stocks up, currencies stall ahead of data /B8

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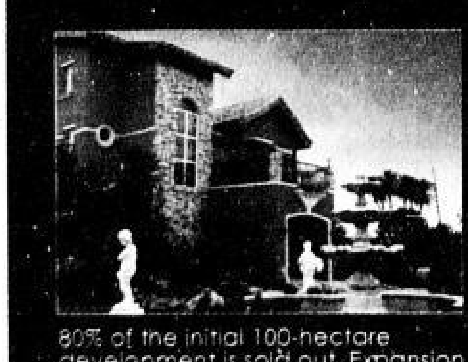
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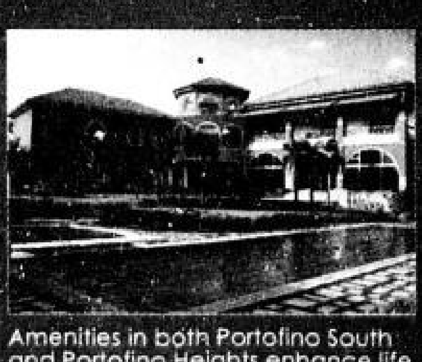
Fembrook Gardens, the wedding and events venue, opens in Portofino's first zoned commercial-area.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Sale of remaining stake in PNOC-EDC approved

Gov't seen to generate P32-P36B

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BOARD OF PHILIPPINE National Oil Co. has approved the sale of the government's remaining 40-percent stake in PNOC Energy Development Corp.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, PNOC-EDC company information officer Erudito Recio said the PNOC board approved during its Sept. 1 meeting the sale of 6 billion common and 4.5 billion preferred shares in PNOC-EDC.

The state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines would serve as financial adviser for the sale, he said.

In an earlier interview, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the sale of the PNOC-EDC stake would fetch for the government between P32 billion and P36 billion.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes had earlier said there was actually an option to complete the PNOC-EDC stake sale by the first or second quarter of 2008 instead of this year, but President Macapagal-Arroyo gave specific directions to complete the sale before year's end.

Another PNOC subsidiary is being prepared for privatization this year.

PNOC Exploration Corp. is considering three methods by which it can be privatized, including a public offering, strategic sale and private placement.

In a presentation to Ms Arroyo last month, PNOC-EC said it was more inclined to go the public offering route given the strong performance of the Philippine Stock Exchange as well as good local and international investor sentiment toward the market.

Since PNOC-EC is already listed on the local bourse, it can just issue additional shares to allow it to raise more funds through the capital market and at the same time move toward privatization.

The PNOC subsidiary said the issuance of additional shares would also be the easiest privatization method to pursue since it would take only four to six months to complete the share offer.

The secondary share sale would likewise add liquidity to the company and provide more value to PNOC-EC shares, it added.

Former PNOC president and now PNOC-EDC chair Pedro Aquino Jr. had earlier said that PNOC-EC planned to increase public ownership to as much as 40 percent within the year or the first quarter of 2008 through a secondary offering.

PNOC-EC has only about 1.7 percent of its shares held by the public, he said.

The planned secondary offering could be separate from the earlier formulated privatization strategy of PNOC-EC, which involved selling 49 percent of the state firm's 10-percent stake in the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power project.

Filinvest to issue 3.5B shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT CORP. is venturing into new growth sectors such as manufacturing and biofuels.

FDC currently has interests in real estate, commercial development and banking.

To help raise funds for its planned investments, FDC gained approval from shareholders yesterday to issue up to 3.5 billion common shares by way of a primary and secondary offer with an option to also offer convertible bonds.

The timetable for the issuance of the shares has not yet been set.

"We have everything ready but we are waiting for the market to be receptive. The market is quite volatile right now," FDC president Josephine Gotianun-Yap.

Yap said FDC would use the proceeds from the share issue to expand its newly acquired sugar mills and refineries, put up an ethanol plant for its planned venture into biofuels, increase the capital of its banking arm East West Bank, and invest in other projects related to property and commercial development.

Over the next five years, FDC is spending P30 billion for various projects. Including subsidiary Filinvest Land Inc.'s projects, the total capital expenditure may hit P50 billion.

FDC had said it was dipping its hands into the manufacturing business with the acquisition of Pacific Sugar Holdings Corp. from Andrew L. Gotianun (ALG) Holdings Corp., owner of Pacific Sugar and the private holding firm of the property magnate.

Yesterday, stockholders ratified FDC's proposed acquisition of Pacific Sugar through a share-swap deal. Pacific Sugar was valued at P15.5 billion by Manabat Sanagustin & Co., a member of the auditing firm KPMG.

Pacific Sugar owns sugar milling and refinery companies Cotabato Sugar Central Co. Inc. (Cosuceco) and Davao Sugar Central Co. Inc. (Dasuceco) and sugar planting firm High Yield Sugar Farms Corp.

Cosuceco was acquired by Pacific Sugar in 2002. FDC plans to expand the capacity of Cosuceco's Cotabato mill to 8,500 metric tons a day by 2008 from the current 4,000 MT.

The refinery capacity will also be raised to produce 13,000 bags of sugar a day starting this year.

Dasuceco was established in 1970 and was acquired by Pacific Sugar in 1990. By 2008, Dasuceco's milling capacity will be expanded to 6,500 metric tons a day from the current 5,000 MT. Its refining capacity will also be increased to 7,500 bags a day from 6,000 bags during the same period.

FDC plans to put up an ethanol plant in Mindanao to take advantage of the implementation of the biofuels law.

The plant, which may cost between P600 million and P800 million, will produce up to 100,000 liters of fuel a day by 2009.

RA 9367 or the biofuels law mandates a 5-percent bioethanol blending into gasoline by 2009 when local demand for the fuel is seen to reach 269 million liters a year.

By 2011, local demand is seen growing to 594 million liters a year with a 10-percent blend mandated during that year.

To meet demand, an estimated 15 to 20 ethanol plants will have to be set up throughout the country.

Forex reserves breached $30-B mark in Aug.

From page B1

bonds. The renewed aversion to assets from emerging markets like the Philippines was triggered by concerns over rising delinquencies in the US subprime housing market.

Subprime mortgages are loans made to borrowers with imperfect or limited credit histories and little equity. The ripples have spread across the globe as western banks took big hits from structured financial products with underlying assets invested in these subprime mortgages.

"Due to the risk aversion factor, the BSP eased its dollar-for-peso swap activity in the onshore swap market to ensure adequate bank liquidity," Citigroup economist Jun Trinidad said in an Aug. 20 market review.

Trinidad said there were less dollar forwards being sold by the BSP in August, implying the following:

- lower spot market dollar purchases and thus less need to worry about excessive money supply growth, and
- preference not to roll over maturing dollar forward contracts.

The country's strong foreign reserve build-up has been supported by remittances from overseas Filipino workers, foreign direct investment and portfolio investments. These inflows allowed the BSP to become a heavy buyer of dollars at the Philippine Dealing System prior to the global volatility seen in August.

In previous months, the BSP intensified the use of foreign currency swaps to mop up excessive foreign inflows. Based on the latest BSP data, its outstanding currency swaps slightly declined to $9.62 billion in end-June from the end-May level of $10.06 billion.

"With the peso falling against the US dollar as risk aversion persists alongside expectations of net portfolio outflows, BSP was probably in a dollar net selling mode—the flipside of which became less urgency to sterilize liquidity via the swaps," Trinidad said.

Shares rise...

From page B1

There were 62 gainers and 39 losers, while 51 stocks were unchanged.

The all-share index edged up 1.72 points to 2,117.26.

Analysts said caution prevailed ahead of the graft court's verdict on deposed President Joseph Estrada's corruption trial due next week.

Estrada, who was toppled by a popular uprising in 2001, still enjoys the support of many poor Filipinos and a conviction could stir up unrest.

"Investors are in a wait-and-see mode. The question mark is how the market will react to the Estrada verdict next week, and whether his supporters will accept a guilty verdict peacefully," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

Philex Mining shares jumped 70 centavos to P6.20, leading gains in the mining and oil sector which advanced 8.1 percent.

Philex reported Wednesday its net profit for the first seven months of 2007 more than doubled to P3.1 billion due to higher metal prices and volumes sold.

Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. rose 20 centavos to P1.70 while Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. advanced 75 centavos to P14.50.

Bargain-hunters, meanwhile, chased Bank of the Philippine Islands, which rose P1.50 to P63.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the nation's biggest company by market value, fell P20 to P2,700. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

September 7, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.730460	1.000000	46.6860
Japan	Yen	0.006333	0.008670	0.4048
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478451	2.024000	94.4925
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093783	0.128389	5.9940
Switzerland	Franc	0.608109	0.832501	38.8661
Canada	Dollar	0.694024	0.950119	44.3573
Singapore	Dollar	0.479903	0.656987	30.6721
Australia	Dollar	0.604586	0.827678	38.6410
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.938589	2.653928	123.9013
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.194753	0.266617	12.4473
Brunei	Dollar	0.478332	0.654836	30.5717
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022685	0.031056	1.4499
UAE	Dirham	0.198873	0.272257	12.7106
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.369000	63.9131
Korea	Won	0.000778	0.001065	0.0497
China	Yuan**	0.096898	0.132654	6.1931
Denmark	Kroner	0.134300	0.183857	8.5835
India	Rupee	0.017982	0.024618	1.1493
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.208614	0.285592	13.3331
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505543	0.692089	32.3109
Sweden	Kroner	0.107069	0.146578	6.8431
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.022111	0.030270	1.4132

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 6, 2007
*Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. **Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 6, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 7, 2007)

52-WEEK HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	58	56.5	58	544,400
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	61.5	63	61.5	63	1,334,700
935	630	China Banking Corp.	805	805	800	800	7,640
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	600
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank, Inc	0.4	0.42	0.4	0.41	1,220,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	56.5	56.5	54.5	55	3,860,800
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	46.5	46.5	46	46	65,000
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	500
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.75	24	23.5	23.75	770,300
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	57	58	57	57.5	2,292,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR KimEng Financial Corp	4.2	4.2	4	4	12,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.08	2.14	1.92	2.1	3,493,000
16.25	2.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.5	11.75	595,300
1.6	0.4	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.98	1	0.98	1	70,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
5	2.95	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	759,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.94	1.98	1.92	1.98	114,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc	785	785	785	785	70
1.94	1.3	IVantage Corp	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	58,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.2	966,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	310,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	65.5	65.5	65	65.5	364,300
92	45	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76	76	76	76	447,200
15	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	2,354,900
105.45	16.36	Manila Electric Co.	81	83	80.5	81.5	1,762,200
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.3	20,921,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.3	5.4	4,982,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc	6.9	7.1	6.8	7	256,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.3	1.3	1.24	1.24	1,813,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.95	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	336,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	2.06	2.06	2	2	2,000
2.65	1.08	CADP Group Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	2,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24	25.5	24	25.5	22,800
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	53.5	51.5	53	260,000
1.96	0.78	RFM Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.62	200,000
3.85	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	15,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. "A"	62	62	62	62	14,000
88	60	San Miguel Corp. "B"	64.5	65	64	64.5	356,200
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.75	3,420,400
0.55	0.205	Vitarich Corp	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	60,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp.	4.45	4.45	4.3	4.3	366,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	3,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	1,339,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.1	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	221,000
2.5	1.32	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	20,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.1	Picop Resources Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	25,830,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.86	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	261,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.1	125,100,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.6	8,960,000
3.6	1.4	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	3	3.1	3	3.05	1,007,000
3.7	1.48	ATN Holdings Inc. "B"	3.4	3.4	3.15	3.35	177,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	39,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	1,300,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	3,057,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	63,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2	19,715,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.26	2.3	2.2	2.22	2,537,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	467.5	472.5	465	472.5	170,100
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	5,600
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.65	3.7	12,997,000
10.25	3.25	DMCI Holdings Inc.	8.1	8.1	8	8.1	159,000
2.5	0.7	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	15,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	10,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	101,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	27,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.72	1.9	1.72	1.74	510,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.65	5.2	4.65	5.1	6,746,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.3	448,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.18	0.215	0.16	0.165	2,418,020,000
1.54	0.76	Prime Media Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	100,000
0.75	0.17	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	620,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	365	370	360	370	57,770
2.1	1	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	10,000
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	4,200,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.46	24,000
2.9	0.8	Vivant Corp.	2	2	2	2	1,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.31	0.33	8,470,000
1.1	0.22	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.56	0.7	0.56	0.7	40,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Co. Inc	1.48	1.48	1.44	1.44	249,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.5	157,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc.	14	14.25	14	14.25	1,411,800
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.1	2,024,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	1,400,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	450,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	15,060,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.245	0.23	0.23	13,600,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.12	1.18	1.12	1.18	17,524,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	42,368,000
0.49	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "A"	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	690,000
0.5	0.1	Gotesco Land Inc. "B"	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.61	10,380,000
4.4	1.64	Megaworld Corp.	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.4	28,457,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	660,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	1,530,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	3,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18	62,800
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	4	4	4	4	436,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	2,776,300
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	100,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	260,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.26	3,560,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	4.95	5	4.95	5	1,558,000
		MEDIA					
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.6	755,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	468,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,345.00	1,345.00	1,320.00	1,320.00	101,700
2,820.00	1,980.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,720.00	2,720.00	2,695.00	2,700.00	127,130
7.9	4.1	Pilipino Telephone Corp	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	134,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.195	5,220,000
12	2	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	9.2	9.8	9.2	9.8	5,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.8	362,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.032	55,100,000
2.9	1.56	Ionics Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	60,000
0.52	0.043	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.215	0.23	0.205	0.205	294,020,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	300,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	65,000,000
5.8	1	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.65	3.05	2.65	2.85	15,756,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp	1.8	1.8	1.62	1.78	143,000
6.8	3.05	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.7	3.95	3.7	3.8	321,000
34.5	14.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	31.5	32	31.5	32	323,300
2.04	1.04	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.18	1.4	1.18	1.4	60,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.75	450,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	413,000
		EDUCATION					
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	2.8	3.05	2.8	3.05	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.3	4.35	4.25	4.3	278,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	250,300
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	32,300
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	47,000,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	4.8	5.2	4.8	5.1	1,080,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	4.8	5.3	4.8	5.1	220,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13.75	14.5	13.5	14.5	6,065,500
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. "A"	11	11.25	10	10	8,000
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	65,000
3.1	0.33	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.54	1.76	1.52	1.7	177,611,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	59,450,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.31	19,830,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.024	0.027	0.024	0.026	1,032,400,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.027	0.031	0.027	0.031	404,100,000
30	1.2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	10.75	12.5	10.75	12	3,351,100
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	347,200,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	5.8	6.2	5.8	6.2	40,071,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	31	32	31	32	27,200
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	2,640,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.13	1,963,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	3,630,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.022	0.023	0.022	0.023	29,800,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	20,200,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.5	9.7	9.4	9.7	97,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	414,000,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	879.59 UP	2.18	15,252,810	504,698,750.00
Industrial	4,545.97 DOWN	14.75	69,644,000	516,177,830.00
Holding Firms	1,832.90 UP	12.97	2,716,845,470	804,797,215.00
Property	1,486.43 UP	5.23	144,916,900	268,549,040.00
Service	1,609.22 DOWN	12.72	439,953,730	623,814,930.00
Mining & Oil	6,216.96 UP	467.76	2,610,808,800	748,585,570.00
All Shares Index	2,117.26 UP	1.72		
PSEi	3,332.97 UP	6.44		
		GRAND TOTALS	5,997,421,710	3,466,623,335.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

New president takes over Petron helm

By Abigail L. Ho

AL-YAHYA

INDUSTRY leader Petron Corp. has named Kamal Al-Yahya as its new president, taking over the reins from Khalid Al-Faddagh who has served the oil firm since August 2003.

Al-Yahya comes to Petron with more than 20 years of experience in the oil industry, working for Saudi Aramco, which holds a 40-percent stake in Petron.

Prior to this assignment, he was head of exploration operations at Saudi Aramco, where he was tasked with acquiring and processing seismic data, as well as other processes relevant to oil and gas exploration.

Apart from his Saudi Aramco post, he also sits on the board of South Rub Al-Khali—a joint venture among Saudi Aramco, Royal Dutch Shell Group and Total SA—which undertakes gas production in Saudi Arabia.

Al-Yahya holds a doctorate degree in geophysics from Stanford University and a masters degree in engineering and geo-science from the University of California.

Among Petron's future plans are the commissioning of a 19,000-barrels-a-day Petro Catalytic Cracking unit by early next year and the commissioning of a BTX unit by the fourth quarter of 2008.

8 suppliers take part in NFA bid to boost rice stock

By Amy R. Remo

AT LEAST EIGHT SUPPLIERS JOINED the tender for the supply of 260,000 metric tons of long grain white rice conducted yesterday by the National Food Authority.

This volume brings total rice imports for 2007 to 1.611 million metric tons.

Bid offers recorded were between $343 and $375.23 per metric ton, cost and freight (C&F).

The bidding, which followed strict requirements under Republic Act 9184, was observed by various representatives from government agencies, like the Commission on Audit and the Philippine International Trading Center, as well as representatives of organizations of farmers, retailers and consumers.

The NFA received offers from Thai Hua, Sethi Rice, LG International, Toepfer International, Asia Golden Rice, Olam International, Vinafood and Daewoo International.

LG International offered US$343 a metric ton for the supply of 50,000 metric tons, which would be sourced from Thailand.

Asia Golden Rice has the same price offer for the supply of 25,000 metric tons, which would also come from Thailand.

Meanwhile, Vinafood offered $350 a metric ton and $355 a metric ton for the supply of 20,000 metric tons from Vietnam; and 80,000 metric tons from Thailand and Pakistan.

Forty percent of the tendered rice shall reach the country's ports in Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro this month, while the remaining balance must be in the country by October this year.

Validity of offers is five working days from the bidding date.

The additional rice is intended to boost rice stocks, following the prolonged dry spell which had adversely affected the country's rice producing regions.

It is also from these imports that the NFA has partly sourced the additional volumes it is currently distributing in certain areas.

Just this week, NFA increased by half the volume of government rice distributed in Metro Manila and nearby Regions 3 and 4 to prevent unwarranted increases in price.

According to NFA, the average daily volume distributed to the National Capital Region is around 30,000 bags (50 kg) while Region 3 has an allocation of 25,000 bags and Region 4, 15,000 bags.

Total additional volume would be 35,000 bags a day. This brings total average daily allocation for the three regions to 105,000 bags.

There is, however, no definite date yet as to when the volume would be reduced to its normal levels.

According to NFA administrator Jessup P. Navarro, this move is part of the agency's effort to forestall the present trend in the prices of commercial rice in the market.

Government rice is sold at P18 a kilo through government outlets, including the Tindahan Natin, Bigasang Bayan, and accredited private retail outlets.

Poll tracks rise in consumer outlook

But pessimists still outnumber optimists in latest BSP survey

By Doris C. Dumlao

EVEN THOUGH THE OVERALL consumer confidence level has improved among low-income groups, there are still more pessimists than optimists out there, according to the third quarter consumer expectations survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Based on the latest quarterly survey, the country's consumer confidence index improved to -23.6 percent in the third quarter from -26 percent in the previous quarter. This means that, of every 10 households, those who are bearish about economic and financial conditions outnumber those who are bullish by two.

"Although the index is still negative, the trend indicates a rising number of optimistic consumers compared to the last quarter's level," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

He said the more upbeat consumer outlook for the current quarter was buoyed up by favorable economic conditions, higher family incomes, and better family financial conditions.

"Consumers attributed the favorable economic outlook to the strength of the peso, stable prices of goods and more job opportunities," Tetangco said.

"The improvement in overall outlook was felt most keenly by low-income consumers—with monthly income of less than P10,000—who anticipated better conditions during the third quarter," he said.

Household finances are expected to improve due to the employment of more family members, salary increases, an expected business upturn and higher savings, the BSP chief added.

"For the first time in the past 10 quarters, even those in the low-income groups were optimistic that the country's economic condition and family financial conditions will be better in the next 12 months," Tetangco said.

The BSP's latest quarterly survey, conducted from July 2 to July 27, with a sample size of 5,093 households across the country, also showed that more families anticipate better economic conditions in the fourth quarter as the next-quarter index turned positive at 4.1 percent.

A positive confidence index means that there are more consumers who are upbeat than those who are skeptical.

The confidence index for the next 12 months also jumped to 7.9 percent from 5.8 percent in the previous quarter's survey.

For the next three months, consumers expect spending on basic goods will rise in preparation for the coming holidays, the survey showed. Expenditure items with higher confidence indices were those on food, clothing and footwear, electricity, hotel and restaurants.

Majority of respondents also indicated better prospects of buying consumer durables, motor vehicles and residential properties over the next three to 12 months.

For the first time since the BSP conducted the quarterly consumer expectations survey in 2004, the next quarter index for the National Capital Region turned positive at 2.6 percent, which indicated that majority of consumers were optimistic about their view for the next three months.

Filipino farmers receive $2.59-M grant from Japan

THE 300-MILLION YEN JAPAN GRANT assistance for underprivileged farmers was formally turned over to the Philippines on Thursday, signaling the full implementation of the fertilizer assistance to poor Filipino farmers.

The grant, worth roughly $2.59 million, is also known as the 2KR or the Kennedy Round grant.

A symbolic turnover ceremony was held in Iloilo City, attended by stakeholders and government officials from both Japan and the Philippines.

Through the National Agricultural and Fishery Council, the Department of Agriculture has already started distributing to small rice farmers 10,607 metric tons of ammonium sulphate fertilizer.

This volume came from the first two tranches of fertilizer shipments, which arrived last July 24 and Aug. 5 and forms part of the 15,607 metric tons procured under the Japanese grant, signed last December.

NAFC is directly involved in the grant program and coordinates with the Japan International Cooperation System in supplying the farm inputs to poor farmers.

The fertilizer shipments has benefited palay farmers living below the poverty line, particularly those from Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija. Mindoro Oriental, Mindoro Occidental and Camarines Sur. *Amy R. Remo*

STI secures 25-yr Global City lease from BCDA

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELopment Authority yesterday said it signed with Systems Technology Institute a 25-year lease of a Bonifacio Global City lot, from which BCDA would earn at least P184.8 million.

BCDA vice president Aileen Zosa said in an interview that STI planned to build on the property a P257.8-million, eight-story educational complex.

Zosa said the agreement covered the lease, development and operation of the 2,632-square-meter Campus Gateway property on 32nd Street, across the Market! Market! Mall.

STI, which is planning to list in the Singapore and Philippine stock exchanges next year, proposed to develop a school complex which would have facilities for information technology, healthcare, and business and hotel and restaurant management.

The building, which would take a year to finish, would also have executive and academic offices as well as facilities for call centers and business process outsourcing services.

"The lease would bring in revenues to BCDA of P6.04 million yearly, which would be increased by 10 percent every five years," Zosa said. "Also, BCDA shall have a 5-percent share in food revenues and 3 percent in nonfood revenues from the development of the property."

Zosa said BCDA was confident that such a project, involving a "credible and financially capable proponent like STI," would further enhance the development of Bonifacio Global City as a premier business district in Metro Manila.

Narciso L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, had said the agency expected completion of 52 projects in the area between 2006 and 2007.

Abaya said the upswing in the real estate industry was sustaining the rapid growth of development in Bonifacio Global City.

He said a total of 52 projects have been, or are expected to be, completed within the year, including residential projects like Serendra, Forbeswood Heights, Kensington, Bellagio, Fairways, South of Market, Fifth Avenue Place. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

SAN MIGUEL WELCOMES VIETNAM PRIME MINISTER

San Miguel Corp. chair and CEO Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. (right) shares a toast with Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in appreciation of the Vietnam government's support of SMC operations in that country. During their stay in the Philippines, the Prime Minister and his delegation visited other Filipino corporations with presence in Vietnam. SMC hosted a party for their benefit at the Manila Diamond Hotel.

Tap new markets outside US, buyers urge local exporters

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE FOREIGN BUYERS' ASSOCIATION OF the Philippines (Fobap) has urged exporters to take advantage of the strong peso by tapping new markets outside the United States, especially China.

Manuel Melgar, head of Fobap's training department, said Filipino exporters could also take advantage of the appreciating local currency by sending out raw materials.

"Local exporters should focus on the home furnishings, fashion accessories, and holiday décor markets of Central and Eastern Europe, South America and China—aside from the United States—as these countries provide huge opportunities for them," Melgar said.

"Exporters would do well to rethink and reconsider opportunities that abound in China due to the country's economic boom and the increasing medium- to high-end furniture and furnishings retail stores in its key cities that need unique hand crafted accessories," he added.

He cited industry data which showed that, Chinese furniture exports grew by an average of 30.5 percent annually to reaching $10 billion from 2000 to 2004, showing opportunities for raw material suppliers here.

Melgar said the furniture industry in China covers some 51,000 manufacturers that employs to some 45 million people.

He added that it was important for exporters to understand clearly the import regulations in Eastern Europe and understand the designs—especially for furniture and accessory manufacturers—that appeal to the European market.

As for the US market, he said local companies should be aware of special occasions and anniversary celebrations observed throughout the year, especially the summer-spring versus fall-winter program.

"Furniture design and materials that would be used in an item should be appropriate for the season," he said.

Melgar said there was a growing demand for outdoor furniture, and demand for new designs of lighting items, figurines, wallpaper products, wall décor, room dividers, tabletop accent pieces was rising as well.

He said natural fibers, shells and other indigenous materials should be recrafted to meet the demands of today's discriminating consumers.

Melgar put forward his suggestions as the sector prepared for the Manila FAME International trade fair, which is the country's premier exhibition for SMEs in the home furnishings, houseware, gifts, holiday décor and fashion accessories sectors.

Manila FAME is the only trade fair in the country recognized by the international association of the world's leading trade show organizers and fairground owners in the exhibition industry—Union des Foires Internationales (Ufi).

Yet another bill seeks to remove grant of income tax holiday

By Michelle V. Remo

ANOTHER BILL SEEKING TO RATIOnalize fiscal incentives has been prepared in Congress, as the government tries again to push this five-year old proposal.

The bill, prepared by Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier, seeks to phase out the granting of income tax holiday.

"The centerpiece of the Philippine incentives system, which is the income tax holiday (ITH), is the most redundant type of tax incentive," Javier said. "It is about time that government seriously rethink the ITH policy that it has adopted for so long."

The DOF has been pushing for the lifting of the ITH. Incentives should be given either to fledgling industries or foreign companies that are enticed to invest in the country, the DOF said.

Finance officials have explained that start-up industries do not yet earn income during the first few years of implementation, and so they do not have any use for the ITH.

Big companies, on the other hand, take into account other factors, such as favorable regulatory environment and infrastructure in investing. Giving ITH to large firms would therefore be redundant, the DOF said.

Under the bill, which is supported by the Department of Finance, ITH shall be granted only to exporters.

A three-year ITH shall be granted to export enterprises registering on the first year of effectivity of the bill, while only a two-year ITH shall be granted to those registering on the second year of effectivity. A one-year ITH shall be granted to those registering on the third year of effectivity.

Other incentives available for export-oriented enterprises include net operating loss carryover (nolco), accelerated depreciation and exemption from wharfage dues.

Under the nolco, losses during the first five years of operations may be deducted from gross income for the next five years following the years of such loss. Under accelerated depreciation, firms may deduct from its taxable income the amount of depreciation of its capital equipment earlier than its time of actual depreciation.

In pushing for his bill, Javier noted that the government has been losing substantial revenue every year due to incentives that are deemed redundant.

Javier cited a study by Renato Reside, professor from the University of the Philippines, which said that 83 percent of the incentives granted by the Board of Investments are redundant.

This translates to about P47 billion in lost potential revenues a year, Javier said.

"The P47 billion in redundant tax incentives could have funded 8,737 one classroom school buildings and help address the perennial school building and classroom shortage," Javier said.

It could also have paved 10,000 kilometers of national roads, and increased by an additional 8 percent the basic pay of 1.1 million government workers, he added.

Advocates of fiscal incentives rationalization has been pushing for such a measure since the 9th Congress.

They said the bill was very difficult to turn into law because it was opposed by big business groups.

The advocates also cited lack of political will in pushing for the enactment of this bill.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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People with epilepsy should know their rights

By Tessa R. Salazar

THIS IS NOT FAIR!
YOU'RE FIRED

TO PEOPLE WITH epilepsy, stand your ground. If you deserve to be in the job, stay put. (If you're having problems), contact us."

This was what members of the Philippine League Against Epilepsy (Plae) declared during the recent health forum of the Philippine College of Physicians-Zuellig Foundation.

Dr. Ana Marie A. Javelosa, chair, organizing committee of the sixth National Epilepsy Awareness Week, and neurologists of Plae also lamented on how little is known about epilepsy and how misconception hinders those who have it.

Advice

"If you encounter problems with your employer, stay put. And when employers give you papers, keep the papers as evidence. Javelosa advises people with epilepsy and also experiencing employment discrimination to call Plae at 525-4996.

Experts at the health forum urged people with epilepsy to choose termination instead of resignation which their employers make them do.

"If you resign, you gave up your right to fight. That is my message to people with epilepsy," Javelosa said.

Dr. Hazel Paragua, second vice president of Plae, estimates that roughly one percent of the Filipino population, or about 880,000 suffer from the disease. Worldwide, there are about 50 million people with epilepsy.

Who is prone to epilepsy? Many sufferers fall into the most productive ages—1 out of 3 people with epilepsy develop the condition by age 18. More than half of all people with epilepsy develop symptoms before they turn 25.

What epilepsy is

The term "epilepsy" comes from the Greek word meaning "to be seized by forces from without." It occurs suddenly and without warning. Very often epilepsy presents as a convulsion with powerful contractions of the parts of the body. But it can also manifest as a sudden brief change in thinking, attention, sensation or behavior.

Plae explained that epilepsy is the most common chronic brain disorder in the world. It is not rare or exotic, nor contagious. There is no witchcraft and demonic possession involved.

It is a medical condition caused by sudden, brief changes in how the brain works. When this change, or seizure, occurs, a person's movement, behavior or consciousness may be altered for a short time, after which he or she goes back to his or her normal condition.

According to Plae, some seizures are focal/partial or limited only to a certain part of the body and are not associated with a loss of consciousness. Some seizures are generalized, where the person can collapse or lose consciousness and have convulsions of the whole body.

Javelosa said Plae is educating schools about epilepsy. When the school educates teachers the proper procedures during a student's seizure, it could prevent the whole school from panicking.

Dr. Leonor Cabral Lim, Plae's immediate past president, said schools should not just practice fire drills but should also be prepared to help students and even other staff members during seizures to maintain calm and order in the schools.

What to do

When someone experiences a seizure, experts advise not to panic.

- Let the patient lie down.
- A patient whose seizure will last more than five minutes should be brought to the hospital.
- Do not give water to the patient as the fluid could go to the lungs, which would result in choking.
- Recurrent seizure attacks are solved with medication (prescription from his or her neurologist) that stops the brain's unusual electrical discharge.

Know your limitations

Jeannie Dumlao-Khonghun, president of Epilepsy Awareness and Advocacy Inc., advises Filipinos with epilepsy who are suffering from discrimination: "Be strong, know your limitations, look for what you can do. Look for how to succeed on your own. I was discriminated before in my work but it didn't stop me from succeeding."

Khonghun is a voice and piano teacher with a college degree in music, majoring in choral conducting (her first degree was Tourism). She is a mother of a 2-year-old boy and a wife to a supportive husband. She is appealing to Filipinos with epilepsy like herself to be empowered as she is now. Khonghun was a recipient of Epilepsy Exemplar Awardee 2006.

Apple Valencia, also an Epilepsy Exemplar Awardee, is a 26-year-old business management graduate (marketing major). She was issued a notice of termination by her employer after she had a single "absence seizure" for less than a minute (sudden interruption of conscious physical and mental activities and a short period of unconsciousness). In Apple's case, she was staring blankly on her seat. This didn't discourage her from pursuing her dreams.

Medicine an inexact science

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

AFTER A RECENT TALK I GAVE in Kuala Lumpur about aggressive blood pressure reduction to prevent heart attacks and stroke, a participant raised the point that hypertensive patients with end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) who are undergoing dialysis seem to be better off with a relatively higher blood pressure like 160-180/90 mmHg than similar patients with apparently controlled blood pressure, say 110/70 mmHg.

Higher levels of blood pressure equal to or higher than 140/90 mmHg are associated with decreased survival or life span in the general population but the opposite seems to be true in patients undergoing maintenance dialysis.

Paradox of medicine

This is the paradox of medicine, being an inexact science. What may be true for the big majority of the population may be exactly the mirror image opposite in small segments of the population. This paradox, or phenomenon as some medical researchers would call it, is what is known as "reverse epidemiology" or RE. The paradox involves the association of conventional risk factors specifically hypertension, obesity and elevated cholesterol levels, with survival in patients with ESKD and congestive heart failure (CHF).

According to Dr. Kamyar Kalantar-Zadeh, who is the main proponent of the RE hypothesis, conventional risk factors of cardiovascular disease and death in the general population relate to outcome in maintenance dialysis patients and heart failure patients in a surprisingly different manner.

In opposite direction

"The traditional epidemiology of heart disease—in that high cholesterol is bad for the heart and vessels—appears to be in the opposite direction in these groups of individuals," Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh explains.

If we were to believe the RE hypothesis, ESKD and CHF patients would live longer and have less illnesses and hospitalizations while they're alive, if their systolic BP remains high before dialysis at 150-180 mmHg, if they're grossly obese (not just slightly overweight), and if their cholesterol levels are on the high side. Strange as it may sound, these deadly risk factors for the general population have a "protective effect" on ESKD and CHF patients, according to the RE hypothesis. There is also emerging data that such a paradox may be true in patients with advanced cancers and in the elderly (octogenarians and nonagenarians).

The mechanisms for RE are not clear but Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh and his group propose that it might be associated with the "malnutrition-inflammation complex syndrome" or MICS. It is believed that undernourished, especially cachectic, patients, are not capable of sustaining normal metabolic processes in the body, have markedly weakened immune systems, making them susceptible to all sorts of complications, and may even secrete substances that are harmful to the vital organs of the body.

Answer a lot of questions

Since cholesterol is part of some essential hormones and actually comprises the covering membrane of most cells in the body, a relatively lower cholesterol level can aggravate the MICS. A normal BP level is thought to be reflective of a significantly impaired heart function since the systolic BP (the upper number of the BP) is partly due to the amount of blood being pumped out by the heart.

Reverse epidemiology proposes a diametrically opposed paradigm shift, making it difficult to accept without feeling a lump in one's throat. "At this point in time it is difficult to predict exactly where we are going," Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh says. He admits that the RE hypothesis still has to answer a lot of questions.

One vital question is if the normal BP, weight and cholesterol levels are the cause or the effect of the progression of the kidney disease, heart failure and other medical conditions linked with reverse epidemiology. If it were the cause, then we should recommend that dialysis and heart failure patients as well as the elderly should gain weight to the point of being obese so they may live longer. This sounds a little absurd at this point.

Guideline for treatment

With the robust data supporting the adverse effects of hypertension, obesity and hypercholesterolemia, from the general epidemiologic perspective, the reverse epidemiology hypothesis definitely goes against the grain of current wisdom. It will require more well-designed researches than the retrospective analyses done by Dr. Kalantar-Zadeh's group to convince the medical community that it is a valid hypothesis, albeit counterintuitive.

Reverse epidemiology has already provoked a lot of debate with no one knowing which side is right at the end of the debate. It is prudent for physicians at this point to have it at the back of their minds when they treat dialysis and heart failure patients but not to subscribe to it fully and making it as the guideline for treatment in these segments of the diseased population.

Yummy healthy snacks

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

FOUR OUT OF EVERY 10 FILIPINO children, aged 6 to 12 years, are anemic, according to the National Nutrition Survey conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). Anemia is caused by lack of iron. It can cause shortened attention span, irritability and fatigue. Anemic kids may have trouble concentrating in school.

Children then should consume a variety of foods high in iron. Liver and glands are the richest sources, followed by meat, fish and poultry in general. However, iron is also present in plant foods, such as legumes, dried fruits like prunes, and green leafy vegetables.

Among the latter foods are *gamet* (seaweeds), *kulitis* (amaranth), *dahon ng malunggay* (horse radish leaves), *kangkong* (swamp cabbage), *dahon ng gabi* (taro leaves), *dahon ng kinchay* (Chinese celery leaves), *dahon ng saluyot* (jute leaves) and *talbos ng kamote* (sweet potato leaves).

Fortunately, many foods are also fortified with iron. The Department of Health's Sangkap Pinoy Seal Program urges manufacturers to fortify foods with iron, vitamin A and iodine. Czarina Teresita S. Martinez of FNRI reports, "In partnership with Moonbake Inc., we have developed the technology for iron-fortified chocolate crinkles to reduce anemia. A 35-gram serving of the crinkles will meet one-third of the Philippine Recommended Energy Nutrient Intake for elementary school children."

Meatless sausage

Aside from iron-fortified cookies, the FNRI is now evaluating the health benefits of meatless sausage. Instead of the ordinary meat-based processed sausage that may be high in fat, FNRI has developed a soy-based sausage. Studies have shown that isoflavones from soybeans can play a role in preventing cancer and heart disease.

According to Ma. Elena G. Fernandez, "The sausage is light brown in color, juicy and tender, flavored with seasonings and herbs. The product contains 1.5 percent dietary fiber, 17.3 percent protein and 262 kilocalories per 100 grams. When packed in polyethylene bags, the sausage remained stable and acceptable after 12 months of storage in a freezer. However, commercial viability has yet to be determined and clinical studies conducted for health claims."

Menu guide calendar

Though we are in the latter half of 2007, here is one calendar that homemakers, health workers, teachers and students will find useful past the last day of the year. The FNRI Menu Guide Calendar features 12 seven-day cycle menus for a month, and nutritious recipes using locally available and affordable food. Aside from providing healthy snacks for the family, the recipes can be a source of extra income for enterprising individuals.

The calendar also contains health and nutrition tips for children, facts on food fortification and tips for budgeting food. The calendar also includes Daily Nutritional Guide Pyramids for Filipinos for various groups such as pregnant mothers, lactating women, preschoolers, school-age children, adolescents, young adults, and the elderly.

Marietta M. Bumanglag says, "Through the calendar, we translate our research results into handy and user-friendly materials to increase awareness of good nutrition."

For more information, write or call Director Mario V. Capanzana, FNRI, Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City, with telefax 837-2934/3164, and e-mail mvc@fnri.dost.gov.ph. Or visit the FNRI website at http://fnri.dost.gov.ph.

* * *

Queena N. Lee-Chua is a professor of math and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University. E-mail blessbook@yahoo.com.

KIDS QUIZ

By Emman Cena

So, what do you call your babies?

They are called puppies, them young lovely baby dogs. We also have the oh so cute kittens for baby cats. But did you know that almost all animals have names for their mother and young too?

Here's a test for you. You need not be a pet lover to answer this. Check your knowledge of the names by matching the name of the mother animal on the left with the name for her baby on the right. Best of luck kids!

Mother	Young
1. cow (alligator)	a) cub
2. sow (bear)	b) chick
3. hen (bird)	c) billy
4. bitch (coyote)	d) gosling
5. doe (deer)	e) kit
6. jill (ferret)	f) larva
7. goose (goose)	g) whelp
8. jenny (donkey)	h) hatchling
9. nanny (goat)	i) colt
10. queen / worker (bee)	j) fawn

Score: 1-4 Good; 5-7 Very Good; 8-10 Excellent

REFERENCE: WWW.ENCHANTEDLEARNING.COM

Answers: 1-h, 2-a, 3-b, 4-g, 5-j, 6-e, 7-d, 8-i, 9-c, 10-f

Young Pinoy environmentalist makes int'l impact

By Charles E. Buban

HIS NAME MAY NOT RING A bell in his own country but mention Reinier Tinapay among the 180 participants in the recent Tunza International Youth Conference in Leverkusen, Germany and they will readily point to their 24-year-old colleague from Davao City who ably led them in this United Nations Environment Program-initiated gathering.

The biennial Tunza International Youth Conference is Unep's global youth forum that brings together young environmentalists—aged 15 to 24—from all over the world to share experiences on the environment (the word "Tunza" means to treat with care or affection in Kiswahili, a sub-regional language in Eastern Africa).

"To be elected as one of the leaders of a group composed of 180 delegates from 85 countries is definitely a tough assignment since we have to work for a unified stand and be able to give our group meaningful representation for the two years that we have to serve," Tinapay explained.

Advises Unep

He was elected into the Tunza Youth Advisory Council in 2005 and as one of its 12 members, the group advises Unep on the better ways of engaging young people in its work and represents youth in international environmental negotiations.

"We expect that whatever we learn from this weeklong conference, all of us will return to our respective communities and become beacons of activities as well as motivators for many others to play a part in addressing environmental challenges," Tinapay said.

For this year's conference, Tinapay informed that the focus is on climate protection, regenerative energies and modern technologies for environmental protection.

"As we all know, while technological and industrial processes are the usual sources of environmental damage, why not also use modern technology in solving our environmental problems," he suggested.

First time

For the first time, the Tunza International Youth Conference was held in the highly industrialized Germany (the first one was in Dubna, Russia in 2003 and in 2005 in Bangalore, India), wherein the delegates were able to experience how modern technology is helping countries like Germany curb its environmental impact.

"It is hard to imagine effective environmental protection without innovative technologies," German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel said as he welcomed the delegates. "We in the industrialized world bear a special responsibility to make our technological know-how available in the service of environmental protection."

Werner Wenning, agreed saying that German industrial firms like Bayer AG (of which he is board of management chair), have succeeded in making efforts to balance its business activities with the protection of the environment and nature.

"In the same way, Bayer AG believes that the younger generation plays a key role in sustainable development on our planet and those who are active in environmental protection today could become the decision-makers of tomorrow, which is why the company has partnered with organizations like Unep in the area of youth and environment," Wenning said.

In fact Bayer AG and Unep signed a new cooperation contract during the summit extending the partnership for the next three years. As part of the agreement, Bayer AG will support Unep with its own programs and an annual financial support amounting to $1.63 million (P76 million).

"Indeed this cooperation is important since everybody should be involved in the area of environmental protection and at the same time ensuring that the voice of the youth is also heard in political debates," Tinapay commented.

Being a leader is no longer new for Tinapay who used to head the Watershed Management Youth Council in Davao City.

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

A new order for the Aetas of Subic

DESPITE BEING STEREOTYPED AS PEOPLE with no exposure to the present world, the Aetas of Subic are just as modern as the rest of us while retaining their traditions and beliefs.

We are talking about a community that remained intact after all these years of shakeups in their own little world. Yes, they may still have that distinct culture about them, but that does not mean that they never thrived on disruptions and modifications, both natural and man-made.

Consider their own reputation as highly mobile people. Their intimate knowledge of forests and wilderness made them unequaled authorities in jungle survival and techniques. All these years they kept their skills alive. In fact, they served as instructors to the American soldiers who consulted them on jungle life. The Aetas taught them how to build fire, cook, build shelters, and trap animals using forest materials only.

Up to now, they are still called upon to serve as forest rangers and guides within Subic.

Nowadays, there are about 200 Aetas families living inside the Subic Bay Freeport. With all the modern convenience surrounding them, they continue to lead their lives in the closest way possible as did their forebears. They still rely on the forest and the bay for their survival.

Do not think that they are left to their own devices as well. Their new order has found them being beneficiaries of health care by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Health and Welfare Group. The Aetas receive medical assistance such as medical and dental checkups.

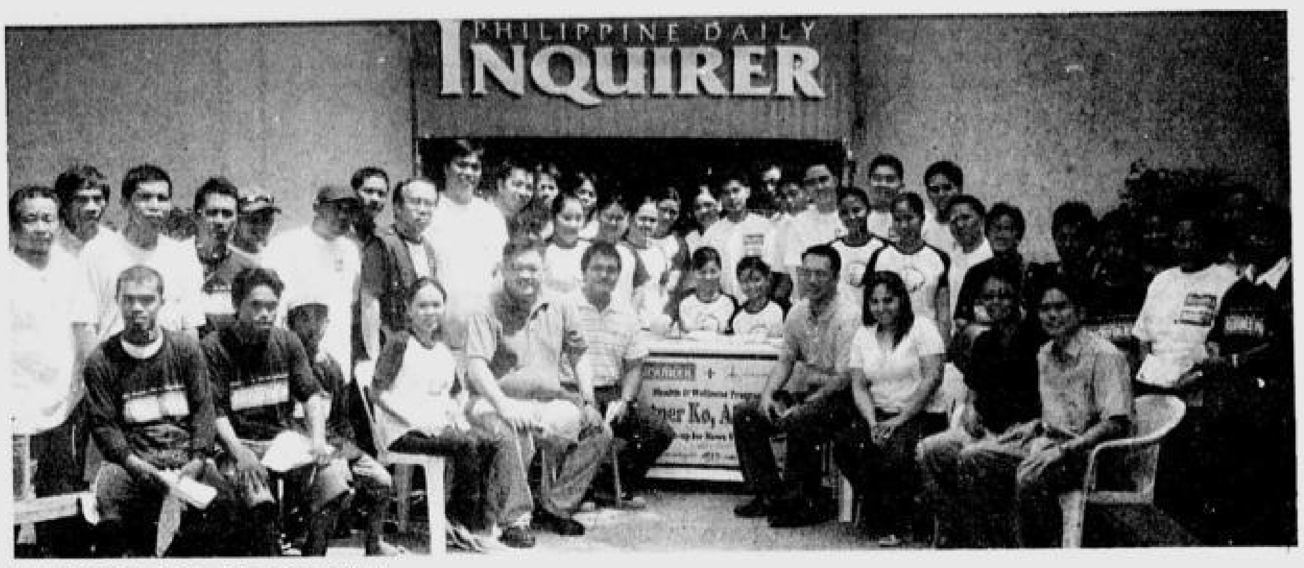
In addition, they get to earn their keep through livelihood projects spearheaded by the Pamulaklakin Forest Trails and the Jungle Environmental and Survival Training Camp. These projects cover cultural demonstrations, forest tours, and maintenance of picnic areas.

All these show that while they have been consistently resisting change from other societies, the Aetas have learned to adapt and adjust to (and even benefit from) social, economic, cultural, and political challenges with their trademark resilience. In the process, they have molded their very own systems and structures within their culture while softening the impact of sudden change.

The Aetas are the perfect models of the 20th Philippine Ad Congress' theme "The New Order": that despite all the shaking and stirring that happened within their community, they were able to develop new-found insights and appreciation for the outside world and how its offerings can actually enhance their way of life.

Experience your own brand of "The New Order" at this year's Ad Congress at the Subic Bay Exhibition and Convention Center on Nov. 21 to 24.

For more inquiries, log on to http://www.20thad-congress-the-neworder.com or call the 20th PAC Secretariat at 894-3076, 894-0838, or 812-5622.



PARTNER KO, ALAGA KO!

Two giant corporations, the Philippine Daily Inquirer and United Laboratories Inc launched its 1st free medical mission to news vendors in Mindanao at Davao City last Aug. 17 under the area of Inquirer circulation-BDO, Karl Sumbeling. 210 news vendors were served as a way of giving thanks to the front liners of Inquirer through health and wellness care. The program was co-hosted by Dabaw Periodicals, FG Enterprises, JCI-Davao Volunteers, and San Pedro College of Nursing Volunteers.

BPI Search for the 10 Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children

MA. TRINA ASUNCION, MEDICAL student from UP College of Medicine Intarmed, heads the list of 10 winners in the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) Search for the 10 Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children.

The nationwide search was launched during last year's BPI anniversary celebration and is a project of the Bank's Expat Pinoy Customer Segment of BPI Overseas Banking Division. The search is one way of fulfilling the bank's commitment to our Overseas Filipinos whose remittances are considered a major powerhouse of our economic progress. Besides giving recognition to their children – their source of inspiration and motivation – it serves as a reward for all their efforts. By citing the achievements of their children, BPI felt that it is giving greater honor and recognition to the sacrifices that any Expat Pinoy bear abroad.

In celebration of its 156th year this year, BPI awarded 10 outstanding children of Expat Pinoys in simple ceremonies last Aug. 3 at the BPI Head Office in Makati, led by BPI president Aurelio R. Montinola III. The BSP Governor, Amando Tetangco Jr., delivered the keynote message during the event.

The awardees, each getting a grant of P50,000 in cash, trophy and a new Globe cellphone, are:

Maria Trina, UP College of Medicine Intarmed, daughter of Andres E. Asuncion who is based in Oman; siblings Kristine Ann of Ateneo de Manila University and Neil Stephen of Dela Salle University, children of Noel C. Lopez based in Indonesia; Mark Lester, University of Perpetual help System, son of Rico Mercurio Cervantes based in Dubai UAE; Maria Rhodora, Far Eastern University, daughter of Rodrigo G. Agang based in Sudan, South Africa; Jonathan, Philippine Science High School, son of Vivencio M. Batingue based in Russia; Mary Grace, Makati Science High School, daughter of Jesus E. Pascua based in Saudi Arabia; Loris Marriel, Ateneo de Manila University, daughter of Ismael J. Villar based in Dubai, UAE; Inri, UP Visayas, son of Danilo L. Villaluna based in Japan; and Soleil, Adamson University, daughter of Manuel I. Ponce who is based in Saudi Arabia.

The board of judges was composed of Deputy Administrator Noriel Devanadera of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Deputy Administrator Hans Leo Cacdac of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Director Fe dela Cruz of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Angelito Pineda of the Department of Education and BPI senior vice president Raul Dimayuga as chair.

Singing champion Erik Santos, BPI celebrity endorser since 2004 and himself a son of an Expat Pinoy, was likewise given by BPI president Aurelio Montinola a special citation for his exemplary behavior and achievements in the fields of arts and entertainment. Erik's father is an engineer in the Middle East for more than 20 years. Erik received the award with members of his family, led by his proud mother Angelita Santos.

Erik Santos capped the ceremony with his heartwarming renditions of the song of hope and promises for today's youth, as well as the BPI theme song for the Expat Pinoys, "Abutin Mo Ang Iyong Pangarap", an original composition.

Bits Clips

Sun's 0% interest on monthly service fees

SUN CELLULAR GIVES ITS CUSTOMERS A CHANCE TO APPLY FOR A postpaid line without having to submit the usual documentary requirements with Sun Cellular's 0% Interest your way to a Sun Postpaid Line Promo. From Aug. 22 to Sept. 21 customers who are principal or supplementary card holders of participating locally-issued credit cards may simply proceed to any of the Sun Shops, present their credit card, latest billing statement and a valid ID, and start enjoying Sun's in-demand postpaid offers including the 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited service. Through this offer, customers may charge to their credit card their 24 months Monthly Service Fee, which they may opt to pay in six or twelve months installment with no interest. Imagine enjoying a postpaid line that comes with a free camera phone and can be enrolled un Sun Cellular's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited for 24 months by paying as low as P 700 per month only for 12 months. Sun Cellular's postpaid lines come with a wide-range of exciting free phones like the Nokia 2626 and Sony Ericsson K310i. 0% Interest your way to a Sun Postpaid Line Promo shall be offered in all the Sun Shop branches nationwide. For more information regarding this irresistible treat, you may contact the customer service hotline at (02)385-8000 or 200 through your Sun Cellular phone or for more information on our postpaid products, just log on to www.suncellular.com.ph.

Fundacion Centro Flamenco presents Alegrias

FUNDACION CENTRO FLAMENCO WILL PRESENT "ALEGRIAS", A VARIety of Spanish dances on Sept. 9, at 6 p.m. at the Makati Sports Club ballroom in Salcedo Village, Makati. The activity will showcase talented students of Cecile de Joya and Emma Estrada as they perform to the rhythm of alegrias, tangos, bulerias and classical flamenco dances with castanets. Special guests include Yerbaguena, a group of musicians playing Spanish music to the beat of cajons and guitarras and Nuevo Flamenco Manila, a newly formed professional group who will perform zapateos. For inquiries, call Fundacion Centro Flamenco at 751-2243 and 895-8098.

16th Int'l Exposition on Food Processing

ASIAFOOD EXPO 2007, THE BIGGEST AND THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE expo for the food and beverage industry opened Sept. 5 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City with Senate Majority Floor Leader Kiko Pangilinan as guest of honor. An estimated 40,000 trade buyers and visitors are expected to attend the Afex 2007, which will run until Sept. 8. More than 500 exhibitor-companies international and local will showcase the latest technologies in the food industries. Included in the exhibitors are the embassies and foreign national groups spearheaded by the United States Agricultural Trade Office, Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation, the Le Club French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, AsiaMedia-Taiwan, an information booth of The Netherlands Embassy and Philippines Department of Agriculture. Local counterparts which has organized group participation were Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc, Food Entrepreneurs and Exporters of the Philippines, Philippine Franchise Association and Philippine Association of Food Technologists.

HOM's 'Volunteer Chronicles' extended

DUE TO REPEATED REQUESTS, HANDS ON MANILA AND POWERBOOKS have extend the period for submission of articles to the "Volunteer Chronicles" writing contest to Sept. 30. Interested participants may join the competition by submitting the following items in a sealed brown envelope: a duly accomplished official entry form and authorization form inside a sealed letter-size envelope, a printout of the write-up, and a soft copy of the entry on CD or floppy disk. Only the title of the entry and the author's pen name should appear on the letter envelope and on the write-up. You can download the Official Entry Form and the Authorization Form from the websites www.powerbooks.com.ph and www.handsonmanila.org. The mechanics of the contest are also posted in the Hands On Manila website. So, hurry and send in your entries! You might just be one of the top three winners who will receive awards and have their entries published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer. The first prize is a free trip for two to Plantation Bay, Cebu via Cebu Pacific and P5,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates; second prize is a free stay for two at the Baguio Country Club and P3,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates; and the third prize is a free stay for two at Taal Vista Hotel plus P2,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates. Entries may be submitted to any Powerbooks branch or mailed to the Powerbooks head office c/o Marketing Department at 25 Brixton St., Capitol Subdivision, Pasig City. Deadline for the submission of entries is Sept 30 at 9 p.m. For inquiries, e-mail info@handsonmanila.org or call 843-7044.

How to have stylish furniture on a budget

IT IS ALWAYS A DILEMMA ON HOW TO HAVE STYLISH FURNITURE IN your house or condominium without breaking the bank. Why not purchase directly from the furniture factory? Mandaue Foam Industries Inc (Mafiinc) has now established its presence in Luzon. It has recently opened a factory and showroom along Km 23 Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta, Rizal (for directions call 656-6804 or 656-6809). Mandaue Foam is a pioneer in the foam manufacturing industry operating for more than 30 years. It is well-known in Vis-Min for its high quality foam mattresses carrying the Flexfoam brand and comfortable Gala beds. With 15 Mandaue Foam showrooms and branches nationwide, the company is able to showcase its extensive product lines of furniture and accessories for the domestic and international market. Mandaue Foam will have its annual 15-day nationwide sale from Sept. 15-30. It is offering a 20 percent discount on all factory-priced items and special low prices on selected sofas, sofa beds, and buy-one take-one on foams and pillows. Homeowners and interior designers in search of fresh homestyling ideas are invited to visit the factory showrooms and branches of Mandaue Foam in Cainta, Cebu, General Santos, Davao, Butuan, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Bacolod.

The Great Sports Outlet Sale at Market! Market!

MARKET! MARKET!, THE ULTIMATE BARGAIN HUNTER'S HAVEN, TURNS up the thrill of sports a notch higher with the Great Sports Outlet Sale. From Sept. 10 to 16 the Market! Market! Activity Center will be transformed into a sports buff's ultimate heaven, with huge discounts on footwear, apparel and accessories. Reinforcing its efforts to bring outlet shopping closer to Metro Manila shoppers, sports' biggest names such as Adidas, Reebok, Fila, And1, LA Gear, The North Face, Diadora, Reva, Puma, Jansport, Converse, Puma, and Avia will be participating in the event. Items on sale include sports and lifestyle apparel and accessories, shoes, sneakers, flipflops, bags and backpacks. So make the winning basket. Score the spectacular goal. Climb the highest peak. Dance the challenging routine. Cool down in style. Make the ultimate trip - come to the Market! Market! Great Sports Outlet Sale. Whatever sports activities you get involve in, you can be sure you'll get great sports gear without burning a hole in your pocket. Now that's exciting. Market! Market! is open on Mondays to Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Fridays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Located at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, it can be reached by car, jeepney, FX or bus. A full service transport terminal is available for your convenience. For more details, contact the concierge hotline at 886-7519 and the cinemas hotline at 886-7515

MET Premium Whitening Soap from Japan launch

MET PREMIUM WHITENING SOAP FROM JAPAN IS READY TO LAUNCH and they're doing it in style. Starting Sept. 8 and running until Sept. 22, MET has a teaser campaign that features a fair-skinned woman hidden in shadow. All you have to do is guess who the radiant star endorser is and if you're lucky you just might get to experience this special kind of whitening for free. If you get it right, you have a chance to win a MET Soap gift pack plus a White Beauty gift certificate. Simply check out the MET Soap print ads in the Lifestyle sections of the Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and Manila Bulletin. Or look closely at the MET Soap billboards posted near Asian Hospital in Alabang, outside Robinsons Galleria, and at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue. Then on the DJ's cue, call or text Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Max 103.5, Mellow 94.7, RJ 100.3, and Home Radio 97.9 with your guess. Make sure you mention your name, address, and phone numbers. The raffle draw will be held on Sept. 24, to choose the 150 winners who got the correct answer. The star's true identity will be revealed on Sept. 23 so check the newspaper ads to find out who this beautiful lady is. Promo winners will be announced on the air and congratulated through their contact numbers starting Sept. 25. Join now and guess who the face of MET Whitening Soap is. Call or text your answer and win. MET Whitening Soap is available at all Watson's branches nationwide.

Make your NGO's causes 'Mission Possible'

LEARN THE ART OF PROFESSIONAL FUND RAISING AT THE BASIC course on Fund Raising to be held on Sept. 25-27 at the Prestige Towers in Ortigas Center. New and seasoned fund raisers alike will learn to diversify their funding sources, look at a wide variety of fund raising strategies, appreciate the different roles within an organization truly committed to fund raising, and develop a system of identifying potential donors. The Special Events Fund Raising Workshop on Sept. 28, will help you find out about the ins and outs of holding a fund raising event for your NGO, project the costs and returns, and learn the skills needed to organize and effectively execute a special event for fund raising. These back-to-back courses are organized and presented to you by Venture for Fund Raising, a non-profit that has been teaching 'the joy of giving' for the past eight years. For reservations and information on package rates and group discounts, contact Jowi de Guzman at 634-8889 to 90 or through e-mail at jowi@venture-asia.org.

Mr. Softy's 7th anniversary bash promo

TO SHOW ITS APPRECIATION FOR LOYAL PATRONS AND ICE CREAM fans, Mr. Softy gives you the chance to take home exciting prizes via its 7th anniversary bash. For every single purchase of (1) Mr. Softy Rumble Crunch or (2) Mr. Softy Glaze or (3) cups with toppings, you will be given one raffle ticket. Just fill-up the raffle ticket and drop it to the outlet's drop box where you made the purchase. Keep the other half portion of the ticket as proof of purchase, which shall be used in claiming the prize. You will have the chance to win a Nokia N70, iPOd nano, laptop or gift certificates. The first grand draw will be on Sept. 30 which will be held at the Riverbanks Activity Center, Marikina City at 3 p.m. and the second draw will be on Nov. 11. All non-winning entries from Aug. 22 to Jan. 5 shall be included in the grand draw which will be held on Jan. 6, 2008 at the SM Megamall Activity Center where at stake is a brand new Honda City. So hurry, grab your favorite Mr. Softy ice cream now and get a chance to win amazing prizes. Promo period is from Aug. 22, to Jan. 6, 2008. Deadline for submission of entries is on Jan. 1, 2008 for provincial outlets and Jan. 5, 2008 for NCR outlets. Keep on buying Rumble Crunch, Mr. Softy Glaze and Cup with Toppings to increase your chances of winning the grand prize of Honda City or the other major prizes.

High-quality condo units at Edsa Grand Residences

THE STRONG SALES PERFORMANCE OF EDSA GRAND RESIDENCES can be attributed to the strict adherence to high standards of quality by developer Edsa Grand Realty and Development Corp, a commitment to serve clients, and an aspiration to be one of the Philippines' most respected real-estate companies. Located on Edsa corner Corregidor Street in Quezon City, the 30-storey Edsa Grand Residences is within close proximity to Quezon City's bustling businesses district, shopping and commercial areas, hospitals and medical centers, government offices, and educational institutions. When completed in 2010, Edsa Grand Residences will feature facilities and amenities suited for homeowners searching for high-quality condominium living. Edsa Grand Residences will have a grand lobby, retail shops, a swimming pool, a wading pool for children, a fitness center and sauna, a multipurpose hall, and function room, among others. Detailed information on Edsa Grand Residences and Adriatico Grand Residences is available at www.edsagrand.com or you may contact Clarisse at 456-4750 or 0917-5396888 and look for Khadine.

JOHN HAY MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

JHMC

a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority

NOTICE OF VACANCY

The John Hay Management Corporation, a subsidiary of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, is in need of the following:

Position : **FINANCE DIVISION MANAGER**
Description : Responsible for the efficient financial operations of JHMC and ensures compliance by enterprise and residents with JHSEZ IRR regarding investment requirements.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy
Eligibility : Must be a licensed CPA
Experience : At least five (5) years in Government Accounting and Commercial Accounting, Financial Systems or related field
Skills : Well versed in the Government Accounting and Auditing Manual, Internal and external auditing, Computer literate, Highly organized, Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, Excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **TREASURY SPECIALIST**
Description : Responsible for cash management.
Education : Accounting Graduate
Experience : At least two (2) years in Accounting, Treasury or related field, preferably with Investment Management back ground
Eligibility : Must be a licensed CPA
Skills : Computer literate, Highly organized

Position : **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION MANAGER** (will be vacant on September 14, 2007)
Description : Responsible for Personnel Management; Human Resource, Career and Organizational Development; and administrative support and logistics.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Commerce, Management or related field
Experience : At least five (5) years managerial experience
Skills : Well versed in property and personnel management
Computer literate, Highly organized
Excellent communication and inter-personal skills
Excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/ STENOGRAPHER**
Description : Provides secretarial support to assigned division in accomplishing all reportorial, communications and other clerical requirements.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in English, Mass Communication or Information Management.
Experience : At least two (2) years relevant experience
Skills : Working knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and Access
Proficient in written and spoken English
Well versed in stenography and transcription of stenographic notes

Position : **MIS SPECIALIST**
Description : Performs all Information and Communications Technology requirements of the Manila Executive Office.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology or related field
Experience : Three (3) years related work experience
Skills : Knowledge in Systems Analysis and Design, document scanning, LAN, and database systems, proficient in MS Office and Website Design

Position : **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**
Description : Responsible for the overall development and marketing of business opportunities and the provision of customer and support services to JHSEZ enterprises & residents.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Business Management
Experience : At least five (5) years in Business Development, Management & marketing, or Urban Planning
Skills : Proficient in Project Development and Monitoring, Computer literate, Highly organized, Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, Excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **MARKETING OFFICER**
Description : Responsible for the implementation of marketing and promotional strategies of JHMC's business opportunities.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, preferably Major on Marketing or Management
Experience : Three (3) years experience in Sales & Marketing or Management
Skills : Excellent planning and organizing skills, Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, Computer literate

Position : **OFFICE OF THE BUILDING AND CIVIL WORKS (OBCW) SUPERVISOR**
Description : Responsible for technical support with regard to the implementation of the National Building Code and JHMC infrastructure projects within the Camp John Hay Reservation.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Architectural or Civil Engineering
Experience : At least five (5) years experience in Technical (Architectural and/or Civil Engineering). Planning and design, Construction management
Eligibility : Licensed Architect or Civil Engineer
Skills : Design, drafting and construction estimate, Project management and monitoring, Well versed in the new IRR of the National Building Code of the Philippines

Position : **TECHNICAL ASSISTANT**
Description : Responsible for technical support to project planning and monitoring
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Architecture or Civil Engineering.
Experience : At least two (2) years experience in Architectural planning and design, Site development planning, Construction management, Land use planning and related fields
Skills : Design & drafting, Land use planning, Computer Aided Design and Drafting

Position : **SECURITY AND SAFETY DIVISION MANAGER**
Description : Responsible for security and safety, and ensures compliance with environmental, security, and safety laws, rules and regulations.
Education : Bachelor's Degree in Military Science or related course
Experience : At least five (5) years in Security or Military Operations
Rank : With rank of at least Lt. Col. or its equivalent
Skills : Training in Intelligence or Special Operations, Computer literate, Highly organized, excellent communication and inter-personal skills, excellent in planning, leading, organizing, and controlling

Position : **SECURITY SUPERVISOR (2)**
Description : Assists in the implementation of JHSEZ Unified Security and Safety Plan. Monitors and supervises the JHMC contracted security agency. Enforces laws relative to the protection and preservation of the natural resources/ products of the Camp John Hay Reservation.
Education : Graduate of B.S. Criminology or B.S Military Science
Experience : Five (5) years in Military or Police service
Rank : At least 1st Lieutenant or its equivalent
Skills : Training in Intelligence Operations, Training on Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship, Holder of a Professional Driver's License, Computer Literate, Good written and verbal communication skills

All interested applicants are requested to submit their Application Letter and ID Picture, Resumé with three (3) Character References, Police, NBI, Barangay, & Mayor's Clearances, and Certificates of Previous Employment on or before **September 14, 2007** to:

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE
John Hay Management Corporation
Bell House Basement, Historical Core, Camp John Hay, Baguio City
P.O. Box 1088
Telephone Nos. (074) 444-8980 to 81 and (074) 444-5823 to 24
Email: jhmgmtcorp@yahoo.com

Asia Pacific International (APi)
Medical and Dental Center, Inc.
2/F Northgate Center, Gov. Cuenco Ave., Kasambagan, Cebu City 6000
☎ (032) 233-2226-7 / 233-2223/5 Fax (032) 2314800

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN
API MEDICAL AND DENTAL CENTER, INC

ASIA PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL (API) MEDICAL & DENTAL CENTER is a duly registered business establishment located at Cebu City. The company became the official Dental Clinic during the 12th **ASEAN SUMMIT** held in Cebu International Convention Center (CICC), Cebu City last January, 2007. The company offers the most advanced medical and dental services to the locals as well as to the foreign clienteles of the city.

API MDC offers compelling and rewarding professional career opportunities for all dental professionals, experienced dentists or to new graduates, who will join our strong team of friendly professionals committed to quality dental care.

Qualified candidates for the position will have a chance to undergo further advance training development and enhancement of skills in the field of their expertise overseas and at the same time they will receive above-average compensation with highly competitive benefits. We also provide room accommodation for employees who are not residents of Cebu.

ASSOCIATE DENTIST

- 20-40 yrs. Old, Male or Female
- Licensed Dentist
- Orthodontist / Surgeon is a plus
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral

RECEPTIONIST

- 20 – 27 yrs. Old, Female
- At least 5' 3" tall
- Nursing Graduate / Medical allied professional is a plus
- Computer Literate
- With pleasing personality
- Excellent communication skills both written and oral

Interested applicants may send their Application Letter, Resume with 2x2 picture, TOR, Certificates for qualification, Passport copy and NBI Clearance through registered mail, email, or fax to:

MS. MARIA C. LUCHESE
API GROUP MANAGER
2/F Northgate Center, Gov. Cuenco Ave
Kasambagan, Cebu City 6000, Philippines

Or Email to : api_mdc@yahoo.com

Fax# : (032) 231-4800

For more info please call (032) 231-9991 / 231-9992 and look for Ms. Janice Aton, Administrative Assistant or Ms. Marian Velayo, Assistant Officer of API GROUP.

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- Good communication skills
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CP#0917-8115555

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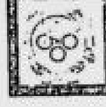

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Television and Production Exponents, Inc. (TAPE Inc.)
is in need of the following:

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1. Male
2. Not over 30 years old
3. With experience in TV Production
4. Graduate of a Reputable School

CCU MAN

1. Male
2. Not over 30 years old
3. With experience in TV Production
4. Graduate from a Reputable School and Holder of ECE License

LIGHTING DIRECTOR

1. Preferably with experience in production

HR/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1. Graduate of BS Psychology or related course
2. With previous experience

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT/ SEGMENT PRODUCER

1. Preferably with experience in production
2. Graduate of AB Broadcast Communication or related course

Please submit or hand-carry your resumé at the address below:

Television and Production Exponent Inc. (TAPE Inc.)
79 Xavierville Subd., Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Q.C.

CPA / MKTG & SALES MNGRS'S / EXEC. SEC. / STORE MNGR'S / LAY-OUT & GRAPHICS ARTIST / IT MNGR. / BLDG. MAINTENANCE / BLDG. ADMIN / SECURITY DRIVER / RECEPTIONISTS

Needed for Resto Chain & Condo Corp.
372-6040 / 929-9154 / 0918-5300803
12th Floor, JCRV Inc. Bldg.,
Tomas Morato Ave.
cor. Roces Ave., Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar
Province of Sarangani
Municipality of Alabel

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of RA No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **LALAINE D. BULLINA** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **RONALDO** to **REYNALDO** in the birth certificate of **RONALDO B. BULLEVA** who was born on 2 September 1968 at Davao City, Davao del Sur and whose parents are Antonio S. Bulleva and Consuelo Banilan.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his/her written opposition with this Office not later than 24 August 2007.

(Sgd.) ELENITO C. SENIT
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2007)

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Tel# 889-7956

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Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Teresita A. Abella Manites A. Abella Jenifer A. Abela	P53 16-15 St., Villamor Air Base, Pasay City	Simplicio Abella, Jr. SS#03-8523828-3	December 20, 2006
2) Hermosa Percil Ballon	Unknown	Jose A. Ballon SS#03-1049893-3	July 27, 2007
3) Sergio C. Borres	Unknown	Marilyn B. Borres SS#33-8348593-8	September 24, 2006
4) Rosario Canlas Leticia Canlas	Unknown	Rogelio Canlas SS#03-0180660-2	April 23, 2007
5) Carmelita Tolosa	Unknown	Leopoldo Cunan SS#03-2611588-4	March 31, 2006
6) Erlinda Del Alcazar	Unknown	Antonio Del Alcazar SS#03-1468182-1	March 21, 2004
7) Jean E. Donato	Unknown	Felix Donato SS#01-1108530-9	January 12, 2006
8) Ma. Luisita Fuertes	Ilijan Norte, Tubigon, Bohol	Lauro C. Fuertes SS#33-4241711-2	May 13, 2007
9) Salvacion Buella	Unknown	Silvino E. Gallon SS#03-2241206-2	May 24, 2007
10) Natividad Muralla	Cupang, Muntinlupa, Manila	Oscar E. Gatpayat SS#03-2737846-0	June 19, 2007
11) Angelita Macalinao Casero	Unknown	Romeo D. Impang SS#03-1248283-7	May 2, 2007
12) Carolina Israel	Gaddani Tayum, Abra	Segundo Israel SS#09-0254401-7	January 26, 2001
13) Renato Labayuga	Unknown	Rey B. Labayuga SS#33-9754959-8	June 13, 2007
14) Teresita Javier	Sta. Cruz, Manila	Rodrigo Labriaga SS#03-4445122-1	December 5, 2003
15) Maria Sala	Unidad, Cagwait, SDS	Ereneo C. Sala SS#08-0444643-3	May 20, 2005
16) Rodolfo Honrado	Unknown	Luzviminda H. Sison SS#03-5043613-3	December 24, 2006
17) Victoria Usana	Unknown	Edilberto Tamayo SS#01-1470694-4	June 24, 2007
18) Aurora O. Torres	Unknown	Reynaldo M. Torres SS#03-1753060-3	December 9, 2003
19) Fernando Viano	Unknown	Elisa Viano SS#01-1501740-9	June 16, 2007

– Nothing Follows –

(PDI – September 8, 2007)

PHILRICE PHILIPPINE RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The **Philippine Rice Research Institute**, through the Government of the Philippines intends to apply the sum of **FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP4,225,000.00)** being the approved budget for the contract for Public Bidding 07-03-14. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Philippine Rice Research Institute now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS LABORATORY EQUIPMENTS**. Delivery of goods is required within thirty (30) to sixty (60) days upon receipt of PO. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act" and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bid (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may inspect Bidding Documents and obtain further information from PhilRice located at Brgy. Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija during office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on September 12 to 17, 2007 during regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **FOUR THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 ONLY (PhP4,000.00)**. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.
6. PhilRice will hold a pre-bid conference open to all interested parties on September 17, 2007; 2:00 p.m. at PhilRice, Boardroom, Laboratory Bldg., Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, N.E.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted to the BAC thru the Supply Office on or before September 24, 2007; 1:45 p.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, Manager's Check or Cashier's Check payable to PhilRice equivalent to one (1%) percent of the ABC or Forty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos and 00/100 only (PhP42,250.00). Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on September 24, 2007; 2:00 p.m. at PhilRice Boardroom. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. PhilRice reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **HAZEL JANE M. ORGE**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 8, 2007)

NREA, HUDCC slates Glorietta housing fair

BILLED AS THE YEAR'S BIGGEST showcase in the housing, real estate and construction industry, the National Real Estate Association, Inc. (NREA), the one-stop trade organization, and the government's policy-making Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) will hold the housing fair on Sept. 10–11 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City. The event will precede NREA's 12th National Convention on Sept. 27-28 at the Makati Sports Club.

With the overall theme, "A Better Outlook in Philippine Real Estate: Building Local, Selling Global, Developing Green," the exhibit will feature the country's prime property projects, innovative design and construction technologies and impart significant updates in this country's multi-billion peso industry.

Opening the exhibit are Usec Lucille P. Ortile, HUDCC secretary general; National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. (NHMFC) president Lawyer Joseph Peter Sison and dep. secretary general Pamela Felizarta with NREA's board chairman Jose V. Manalad, president Alejandro S. Mañalac and vice chair Arch. Felino A. Palafox, Jr.

The trade exhibit is chaired by NREA trustee Emely S. Medina with Malou Villados, Seth Pusung and Jesse Rebustillo while the convention proper is led by Arch. Ronie Biando and Arch. Sol Flores-Prado. Overall convention and exhibits chair is Association executive vice president lawyer Gilda S. Lim while vice chair is NREA trustee and realty executive Edwin Lisondra.

The way of Mary

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY PASAY WILL launch on Sept. 8 "The Way of Mary." These are the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary created as an exact replica of the one installed along Ortigas Avenue from the EDSA Shrine to the Antipolo Cathedral. As a Marian school it is one of the firsts to have these beautiful 20 Mysteries of the Holy Rosary in mini edition. The launching event is in line with this year's commemoration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and on the occasion of SMA-P 85th year anniversary this 2007. The Administrative Council, select faculty and staff, Marian students, and representatives from its adopted public school, Epifanio Delos Santos Elementary School will witness the event.

In Loving Memory

of

RUBEN FAMY ALVAREZ

on the 20th Anniversary of His Passage to Eternal Life

Holy Masses will be offered for him today at the following Churches:

Our Lady of Grace Parish, *Grace Park, Caloocan City*	5:45 a.m.
Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, *Mindanao Avenue Ext., Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
San Nicolas De Tolentino Parish, *Congressional Village, Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, *Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City*	6:00 a.m.
Mount Carmel Church, *New Manila, Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
Mary the Queen Parish, *Madison St., Greenhills East, San Juan*	6:00 a.m.
Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy, *Sikatuna Village, Q.C.*	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose Parish, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	6:15 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, *Magallanes Vill., Makati City*	6:15 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:15 a.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	6:30 a.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Kalayaan Ave., Makati City*	6:30 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, *San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:30 a.m.
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, *San Antonio Village, Makati City*	7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Shrine, *Aurora Blvd., Q.C.*	12:00 nn.
St. Jude Parish, *Poro, San Fernando, La Union*	5:00 p.m.
St. William Cathedral, *San Fernando, La Union*	5:15 p.m.
Holy Family Parish, *Kamias, Q.C.*	6:30 p.m.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

In Loving Memory of

Chona Tañada Roxas Silos

December 6, 1937 – September 8, 2003

"On This Day
O Beautiful Mother,
We Give You Our Love"

Her devoted family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

JOSE "CHOO-CHOO" P. ELLIS

March 5, 1937 – August 29, 2007

Choo-Choo passed away suddenly at his home in San Francisco from cardiac arrest. His remains were cremated last August 31 at Duggan's Serra Mortuary in Daly City, CA. He is sadly missed but lovingly remembered.

He is survived by his loving wife Pangkai, Children : Angie & Jerry Post, Annette and Angelo.

A simple memorial service celebrating Choo-Choo's life will be held at the Capilla del Señor, Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment shall be at the Manila Memorial Park at Sucat, Parañaque City After the 3:00 p.m. Requiem Mass On Sunday, September 9, 2007.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made in Choo-Choo's name to their favorite charities.

MA. CRISTINA "BABY" LARDIZABAL SEGISMUNDO

of Lipa City, Batangas

Peacefully passed away in the grace of our Lord on September 6, 2007.

Her loving husband, **Eduardo "Eddie" Segismundo**; children **Edcel**, **Connie**, **Ditas** and **Tina**; her brothers and sister, grandchildren and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City, Batangas.

Interment will be announced later.

"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." John 11:25-26

MA. ELSIE MUÑOZ YELO-ENRIQUEZ

(January 9, 1937 – September 3, 2007)

peacefully returned Home to the loving embrace of her Creator at the age of 70.

Her bereaved husband **Retired Major General GUILLERMO P. ENRIQUEZ, JR.**; children **GIGIE, MIMI & JUN**; sons-in-law **PANCHO ADELBERTO M. HUBILLA** and **ROBERT GATLEC PO**; and grandchildren **PAOLO ADRIAN, CHRISTEL LENORA** and **CELINE MARIA PO**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park-Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 9, 2007 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Main Chapel.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- ❶ Copy of Death Certificate
- ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Pantaleon Banzon Tuason "Pan"

Died in the Grace of our Lord on Sept. 6, 2007 at the age of 66.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state in Balanga, Bataan.

Interment will be on Sunday, September 9, 2007 in Balanga, Bataan.

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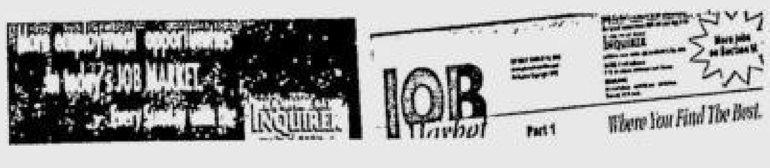
Department of Labor-NCR A24
Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation A27
LandBank of the Philippines A27
National Food Authority A27

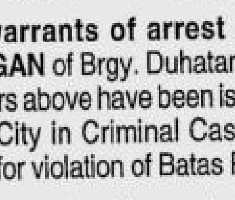
NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that TVI RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PHILS.), INC. Stock Certificate No. 001 for 99,999 shares issued to TVI Copper, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 011 for 75,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 012 for 25,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., Stock Certificate No. 015 for 675,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc., and Stock Certificate No. 016 for 225,000 shares issued to JMM International Holdings, Inc. were reported lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.

(PDI–September 8, 15 & 22, 2007)



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Be it known that **warrants of arrest** of **MR. APOLINAR RECINTO MARASIGAN** of Brgy. Duhatan, Lipa City, Batangas whose picture appears above have been issued by the Municipal Trial Court of Lipa City in Criminal Case Nos. 06-0145 and 06-0362 to 06-0367 for violation of Batas Pambansa Bilang 22.

Positive information leadind to his arrest shall be rewarded.

Please direct any information leading to his arrest or whereabouts to:

LUCKY 4A CORPORATION
Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City, 4217 Batangas
Tel. Nos.: (043)404-1340, (043)404-1342 and (043)404-1343

(PDI–Sept. 8 & 21, 2007)

BUSINESS

Asian stocks up, currencies stall ahead of data

Investors waiting for US jobs report; gold at 16-month high

HONG KONG—ASIAN STOCKS crept higher yesterday as merger talk boosted mining shares, but the Nikkei fell and the dollar hovered near one-month lows amid growing caution ahead of the influential US jobs report.

Spot gold stepped back from a 16-month high hit on Thursday, but remained underpinned by strong demand, while oil hovered above $76 a barrel on rising tensions between Syria and Israel and after a drop in US fuel inventories.

Investors were seen reluctant to take big positions ahead of the August US non-farm payrolls data, with the focus on how much the housing and credit market turmoil may have damaged the US economy, a top destination for Asian goods.

The non-farm payrolls report is expected to show a rise of 110,000 jobs in August and a steady jobless rate of 4.6 percent.

On Thursday, fresh signs of home loan troubles emerged after a report showed a record percentage of American homes had entered foreclosure in the second quarter, but data on the service sector and retail sales last month pointed to surprising strength still in the world's biggest economy.

By early yesterday afternoon, MSCI's measure of Asia Pacific stocks excluding Japan had inched up 0.1 percent, following Thursday's 0.6-percent rise.

But Tokyo's Nikkei again underperformed, slipping 0.8 percent as continuing concerns about a global credit squeeze weighed on bank issues such as Mizuho Financial Group.

Among other markets in the region, Chinese mainland stocks shed 1.3 percent after the central bank raised bank reserve requirements for a seventh time this year as part of a concerted campaign to keep the economy from overheating.

The MSCI index looked set to end higher for a third straight week, continuing its recovery from a five-month trough plumbed on Aug. 17. It is now 19 percent above the low and just 5 percent below the July 24 life high.

Investors bought miners amid talk of a possible takeover in the sector involving Rio Tinto, driving Rio shares up 2 percent, while rival mining giant BHP Billiton climbed 2.2 percent.

Spot gold hit a high of $697.70 on Thursday—the highest since May 2006—and was trading near $693 an ounce on Friday in Asia.

But wariness about the US economy kept the major exporters under pressure.

In the forex market, the dollar steadied against a basket of currencies after falling to a one-month low in the previous session on worries about the US economy.

But the market overall was subdued.

"People are happy to wait until Monday to see where the market is," said Luke Waddington, head of forex trading at Royal Bank of Scotland in Tokyo.

The US dollar index rose to 80.5, but was still not far off Thursday's low of 80.364—a level last seen on Aug. 9. *Reuters*

A THAI vendor arranges bananas as he waits for customers in Bangkok. Thailand's economy is expected to grow just over 4 percent in 2007, among the lowest in Southeast Asia.

AFP

Greenspan says stock market turmoil similar to 1998, 1987

NEW YORK—"THE HUMAN race has never found a way to confront bubbles," Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said in reference to the euphoria that can precede contractions, or reactions, like the current market turmoil, according to a published report.

GREENSPAN

Greenspan, speaking to economists Thursday in Washington, compared the turmoil to that of 1987 and in 1998, when the giant hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management nearly collapsed, The Wall Street Journal reported on its website.

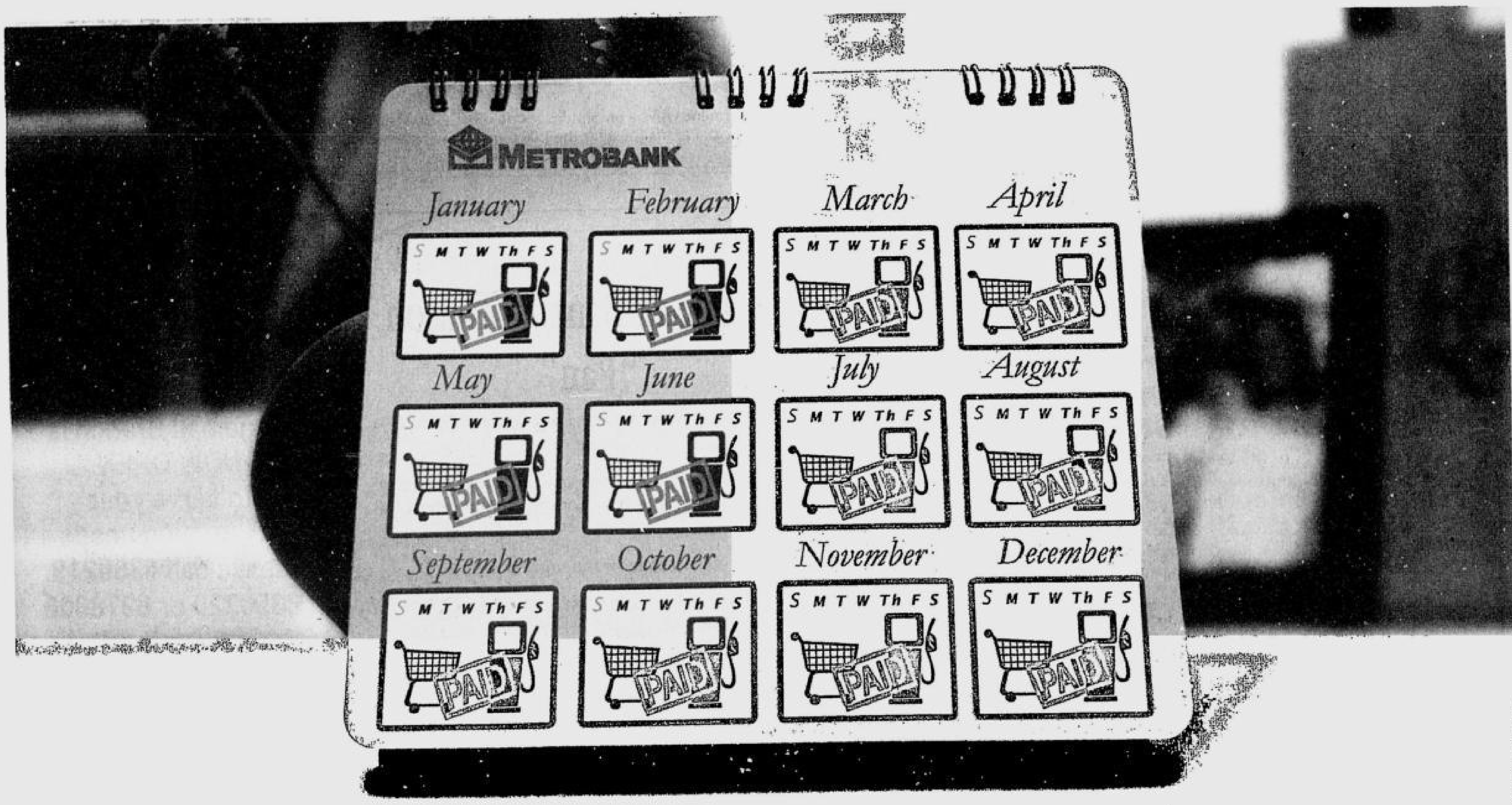
"The behavior in what we are observing in the last seven weeks is identical in many respects to what we saw in 1998, what we saw in the stock-market crash of 1987, I suspect what we saw in the land-boom collapse of 1837 and certainly the bank panic of 1907," Greenspan said at the event organized by the Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, according to the Journal.

Greenspan, now a private consultant, said euphoria takes over when the economy is expanding and leads to bubbles, "and these bubbles cannot be defused until the fever breaks," the Journal said.

Bubbles cannot be defused through incremental adjustments in interest rates, he suggested, the paper reported.

The Fed doubled interest rates in 1994-95, and "stopped the nascent stock market boom," but when stopped, stocks took off again.

"We tried to do it again in 1997," when the Fed raised rates a quarter of a percentage point, and "the same phenomenon occurred." *AP*



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PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Be secure with developer before settling in

By Tessa R. Salazar

PROPERTY EXPERTS NOTE that aside from "good sign" the deluge of condo developments brings for the Philippine property market, it gives prospective buyers more choices in terms of size, design, location and price.

Global Property Guide's chief economist Prince Christian R. Cruz notes that the more options available, the better it is for buyers.

BE SECURE/B2-2

Condo unit owners bear the responsibility of 'looking out for one another,' experts say

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Be secure with developer before settling in

From page B2-1

Richard Raymundo, Colliers International's director for research and consultancy, says that as with other industries, a more robust property sector would contribute more to the economy and also increase property values. He also says another positive result of a property sector boom is increased employment for the construction outfits.

Good track record

But are low-priced condominium developments enough for you to "bite the bait," so to speak? Without driving you back to overpriced condo units from reputable developers, experts remind Filipino condo unit buyers not to commit the common mistake of buyers in the past. If you're considering buying from condo developers without proven track records, don't just take their word for it. Investigate.

"Residential units are sold on a preselling basis in the Philippines. Buying from a developer with a good track record gives an assurance that it will be delivered on time and with the quality agreed on," Raymundo advises.

Buying a condominium in the Philippines "is very tricky," Cruz notes, and he reminds buyers to seek first the developer's track record in terms of reliability, service and quality.

"The company's reputation in terms of structural design is very important. It is easy to check the size and layout of condo units, but to check whether substandard materials were used or that the building can withstand typhoons and earthquakes is difficult."

Cruz stresses that the Philippines is located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions constantly threaten the land. "Completely surrounded by water, we are also under constant threat of typhoons and flood."

Life of a condo

Cruz says the building's life actually depends on its structural design and maintenance. "In other countries, a well-maintained building can last up to 100 years without any major renovations or repair. In the Philippines, a building's life span is probably shorter due to harsher environmental conditions."

He adds that condominiums are set like a corporation. What the unit owner actually owns are shares to the corporation proportional to the unit's size. Contrary to popular belief, the owner does not lose ownership of the unit after 50 years, according to the Condominium Act (RA 4726). The owner of a condo unit as a shareholder in a company has a say on what would be done to the condominium building.

Association dues

Raymundo says a condominium is run under a condominium corporation. "That is why there are condominium unit owners' meetings held to decide on issues like property management, special capital expenditure, condominium rules and regulations. This said, the financial position and how the association dues are arrived at have to be transparent to all condominium owners."

Cruz says that as the condominium building gets older, association dues used for maintenance typically gets higher.

"If unit owners feel that association dues are too high, they have the right to see the company's audited financial statement. They should remember that they are not mere tenants in the building, they are stockholders. The property manager should serve at the owners' pleasure and not the other way around. Active participation in the condominium board could prevent this from happening in the first place.

Ask, ask, ask some more

Cruz says condo buyers should ask questions, not just from the real estate agent and the developer, but more importantly, from prospective neighbors. These include other condo owners and people within the locality.

"They know if it floods in the area, if there are serious peace and order problems, or if the garbage is regularly collected. These are simple things that are often neglected but are very essential."

What rights do condo unit owners have after the building has lived out its supposed life span? How would an owner know if association dues are used properly? Questions like these have to be answered even early on.

Raymundo says that each building owner has a proportionate right to the land on which the building stands. Once the building is economically obsolete, the land, however, retains value.

"The property can be redeveloped with each unit owner having a proportionate right or share in the land value. For example, if there is a 10,000-sq-m condominium and Owner A owns 5,000 sq m, Owner A has a right to 50 percent of the land and its value," Raymundo says.

Some condominium developers experience difficulties forecasting market demand, Cruz says. According to him, not all developers conduct a proper market study before building a condo building. Since there are always chronological gaps between planning, construction and marketing, several factors such as customer preferences, economic conditions and construction costs, may change.

"There can be a mismatch between what is available and what is demanded, especially in terms of unit sizes. While this can be remedied by merging or dividing units, this is costly and can affect the building's structural integrity," Cruz reminds.

(For more tips on how to choose structurally safe condos, check Inquirer Property's July 14, 2007 issue or log on to http://showbizandstyle.inquirer.net/lifestyle/lifestyle/view_article.php?article_id=76523)

Nearly half of buyers from overseas

RICHARD RAYMUNDO, COLLIERS International's director for research and consultancy, estimates that 30 to 50 percent of condo sales come from overseas.

"Anecdotal evidence points to sales in condominiums these days from overseas could be 30 to 50 percent of total sales. Some reports also mention that about 30 percent of OFW remittance is linked to property, either buying new development or for amortization payment."

Prince Christian R. Cruz, chief economist of Global Property Guide, says the surge of condo developments is a good sign that the Philippine property market is recovering from the Asian crisis.

"The number of new condo projects gives prospective buyers a huge variety in terms of size, design, location and price. The more options available, the better it is for buyers."

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER earlier this year, Crown Asia president Jerry Navarette said the condominium sector is seen to continue its tremendous growth. Navarette predicted that the Philippine property's "new and aggressive financing schemes will definitely be a strength it will bank on to drive the growth in 2007."

In an earlier interview this year, Antel Land marketing director said products for the expanded Filipino family, such as developments near the place of parents, schools or workplace, as well as fairly priced high-quality condominiums, would continue to be a trend.

Tessa Salazar

Bisazza opens new facilities in Cavite

ITALIAN TILE COMPANY BISAZZA recently opened its new facilities in Bacoor, Cavite with no less than Italian Ambassador and Mrs. Rubens Anna Fedele, Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla and TV personality and Studio 23 host of the "Good Life" Cory Qurino gracing the event.

According to Bisazza's country manager Ric Atienza, Bisazza's promising local sales encouraged them to boost its production for the Philippine market.

New location

Moving to their new location provides for faster turnaround time and processing of documentation is made more convenient. This new production facility will also supply the inventories of Hong Kong, Korea and other Southeast Asian countries.

Atienza said its sales increased by 48 percent from 2004 to 2005, and by 68 percent from 2005 to 2006, while the first half of 2007 showed sales increase of 22 percent compared to the same period last year.

Founded in 1956, Bisazza has developed into a manufacturing firm spurred by a strong entrepreneurial spirit and an ability to see the way the market is evolving. Its mosaic tiles are preferred by the most eminent designers and private homeowners in Europe, the Middle East and North America. They are becoming widely popular among the elegant set of the Far East, particularly Japan, Hong Kong, Macau, Korea and now the Philippines.

Mosaic tiles

Bisazza takes pride in its mosaic tiles that run the gamut from pastel to earthy to metallic and textures that are glass smooth, grainy, pitted, striated or rippled. These tiles make for the most versatile materials in creating breathtaking interior and exterior spaces. They can dress up walls, floors, swimming pools and furniture, providing a focal point, an accent, or a setting for other pieces.

In 2000, the company started to market itself as a luxury brand, catering mostly to the high-end segment of the market. Its most luxurious line is "Oro," which is made of 24-carat gold leaf sandwiched between two layers of Murano glass..

The firm also makes glass tiles in traditional vitreous finish which, when used with the Venetian aventurina stone, gives off a glittering, jewel-like sparkle.

Aggressive sales promo

Atienza also said that since it started its operations in the Philippines in 2004, Bisazza has been widely aggressive in promoting the brand by joining prestigious trade events, including Philconstruct, Worldbex and other major exhibitions held in Cebu and Davao. It has also sponsored the construction of the jacuzzi room of the Pinoy Big Brother House, one of the country's leading reality TV shows.

Bisazza's main office is located in Vicenza, Italy, and has branches in Australia, France, Hong Kong, India, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom and United States, and a network of over 4,000 distributors worldwide.

Design revolutions taking place in workplace

NEW WORK ENVIRONMENTS WITH the look and feel of a dynamic university are being introduced by Ayala Land to rapidly growing industries including the business processing outsourcing segment.

Picking up from successful models abroad like Silicon Valley and the Infosys campuses in India, the premier real estate firm is building two IT campuses in the next two years. A cluster of low-rise buildings built around a central amenity like a park or a lake, this new office format "creates a conducive workplace for young employees who are more at home with the informality and less structured ambience of the university rather than the corporate appeal of the office tower," said Marivic Añonuevo, head of Ayala Land's Corporate Business Group.

Prospective clients seeking to expand their IT-driven businesses beyond Metro Manila are particularly keen about its proposed 30-hectare technology campus at a new 1,600-hectare community in Canlubang. Envisioned to be a regional growth center, the community was recently named Nuvali and will encompass business, retail and entertainment spaces built around a lake with an area of 40,000 square meters.

IT campus

Ayala Land will kick off the Nuvali community with the construction of an IT campus. The campus' first building, a four-story structure offers 10,805 sq m of office space. Along with other key amenities of Nuvali, the BPO building to be completed in 2008 will be oriented toward the spacious lake.

The four-story edifice will offer the youthful workforce expected to work in the area with refreshing views of water and the other natural attractions of this emerging community. "This workplace will be serene and close to nature while offering the energy and dynamism of a university," Añonuevo said. Appropriately, this IT campus was recently named the Technopod at Nuvali.

For business owners, Ayala Land offers the advantage of being able to quickly construct more cost-efficient buildings as needed in its vast Technopod location. The company can also put up mini campuses dedicated for a specific client if that is desired.

Diliman project

But prior to the Canlubang project, Ayala Land will inaugurate by the end of the year the UP North Science and Technology Park. With a long-term land lease arrangement negotiated with the University of the Philippines, the 37.5-hectare Diliman project consists of 10 low-rise buildings to be constructed in phases.

The project offers high-tech companies easy access to the different research departments of the university. It will also incorporate a retail center and eventually a businessman's hotel. The Canlubang development is likewise envisioned as a fully integrated community with retail, commercial, residential, transport and even recreational components.

High level of service

Ma. Carmela Ignacio, senior division manager of ALI's Corporate Business Division, added that BPOs generally require a high level of service from developers. Since these firms usually operate from late at night to the wee hours, they require 24/7 technical support and tight security not only within the premises but also for their employees as they arrive and leave the place. Covered, well-lit walkways linking the building to transport nodes are crucial.

Moreover, employees are provided with quick access to retail and dining establishments and even sports facilities. "It's important to BPOs that their staffers are able to maximize break times so they can return to the office refreshed and recharged," Ignacio noted. Lodgings for employees also figure into the BPO equation because they hire a good number of agents from the provinces.

These firms are also visited often by clients and regional executives who need accommodations near their workplaces. Thus, a BPO or IT campus will also usually include a businessman's hotel. All these requirements can easily be met by Ayala Land or its subsidiaries engaged in property management, commercial leasing and the hotel industry.

Changing office landscape

Estimated to grow by 50 percent annually in the next five years, the robust Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry is changing the office landscape. Ayala Land intends to keep pace with the industry by dramatically increasing its inventory of BPO spaces in the next three years.

It is also constructing the Dela Rosa E-Services Building in the preferred Makati business district location and set for completion in late 2008. At the same time, it is finalizing plans for other locations catering to the customer contact segment in San Lazaro, Manila, Alabang, Cebu and Davao.

High rise: homes of the future

THE EMERGENCE OF THE "HIGH-rise nation" has been observed in progressive Asian countries as of late, following the trend in first world states that call for vertical villages situated around the vibrant metropolis.

Locating residences within high-rise homes in the city affords the citizens a truly cosmopolitan lifestyle, having convenient access from their residence to places of work and leisure.

The same trend can be noticed in Metro Manila for the past couple of years. The capital region's skyline continues to evolve toward the cyber city direction and stylish look of its Asian cousins. Naturally, the tendency to reside near central business districts is the probable move for young urban professionals and starting families who wish to enjoy urban conveniences while upgrading their lifestyles.

More practical

Home buyers are being more practical today about procuring their first residential property within the city. The continuous migration from the provinces and perennial housing backlog all contribute to limited living spaces for everyone who wishes to reside within the metro. The solution? Go high-rise!

More and more Filipinos are now choosing to live the modern iifestyle in vertical villages that were actually considered before as a luxurious privilege. The move toward high-rise homes is sort of a transition as citizens get more exposure abroad, and acquire tastes for a more sophisticated lifestyle.

Affordable condo

Developers like DMCI Homes have addressed this housing situation by creating condominium developments that are affordable to the target market of young middle-income families.

One of these projects is Cypress Towers, a three-tower residential community in a resort-type setting located in the progressive city of Taguig. Here, residents will thrive in a way of life that is now enjoyed globally: fully serviced, premium-quality and urban-friendly condo communities that are both comfortable and truly modern.

COMPLETE resort-like amenities at Cypress Towers

The advantages of high-rise living are also being more and more pronounced. Having an address strategically located within a 3-km radius of important places of work and leisure is of the essence for a professional and his/her young family.

This helps them cope with a fast-paced lifestyle, enjoying access to business districts, shopping places, dining and entertainment joints, along with institutions of learning, health care, and religion—all minus the hassle of traveling hours wasted on traffic just to get to a destination.

Generous layout

The rural flavors of the suburbs can always convince urbanites to relocate, but in a high-rise home like Cypress Towers, even these provisions are already realized. A generous layout devotes building footprint to open, breathing spaces that shatter the concrete feel of this high-rise community. There is a swimming pool with gazebo, pocket parks, indoor and al fresco dining areas, viewing deck, jogging paths and a skylounge to spend de-stressing moments with the family.

Even entering the building is already an experience. A reception area and hotel-like lobby immediately sets the mood for a welcoming home.

Units have balconies to view the scenery of the metro below, including the magnificent sunset of Manila Bay, the charm of the Makati, Ortigas and Bonifacio Global City skyline, or the soothing view of Antipolo hills.

Ahead of its time

Cypress Tower itself is the quintessence of a high-rise structure that's built ahead of its time. It uses a unique "pinwheel configuration," with four wings emanating from a central core like a child's pinwheel toy. This design is more than style; its substance derives from a clever maximization of space that also allows natural illumination and ventilation throughout the building. It's also an ode to a cleaner and fresher living environment.

CYPRESS Towers is another prime community development of real estate developer DMCI Homes.

Cypress Towers is strategically located on C-5 in Taguig right next to the Bonifacio Global City and a few minutes away from the Makati Central Business District. Unit prices range from P2 million to P5 million. Residents can move in for as low as 20 percent down payment and a flexible payment scheme.

DMCI Homes is the only triple A builder/developer that provides premium quality, urban friendly, fully serviced communities for young middle-income families. For inquiries on Cypress Towers, please call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com today.

The most energy-efficient buildings in Asean in 2007

First of two parts

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

A WORLD-CLASS STATE-OF-THE-ART library in the tropics, a convention center inspired by the shape of a kite, green office buildings, shopping malls, a resort amid spring ponds, a seaside resort, a traditional hotel in a historic site. These are some of the winning entries in the recently concluded Asean Energy Awards 2007, an annual competition of the greenest and most energy-efficient buildings in the region.

The Asean Energy Awards is Southeast Asia's most prestigious annual awards program that recognizes outstanding works in the field of energy. Its aim is to provide international prominence and recognition to outstanding companies and individuals who consciously apply the concepts, systems and technologies of energy efficiency and conservation. The program was conceived for energy-efficient buildings to become showcases for others to replicate and promote.

Competing entries are pre-qualified by the Department of Energy in each country. Awardees are chosen through a competition by a board of judges made up of one representative from each country of Asean, namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Categories

There are four categories in the competition namely:

- New and existing building
- Retrofitted building
- Tropical building
- Special submission

Qualified building types

Offices, schools, libraries, retail/shopping malls, hotels and hospitals have been selected as building types due to their predictable hours of operation.

Prequalification requirements. Candidates should pass the prequalification criteria that include the energy-efficiency standards set and established by the board of judges. The energy audit or evaluation conducted by the Department of Energy, at no cost to the applicant for joining the competition, is a basic requirement to record energy efficiency and conservation measures employed and to determine their effectiveness.

New, existing building category

Singapore—Winner

Singapore, once again, topped this year's awards with the National Library, a 16-story innovative building with bioclimatic design techniques, having a floor area of about 57,800 square meters. Ten percent of its area is devoted to "sky courts" and landscaped areas throughout the building, which improve the working environment and provide a positive psychological effect on the users.

SINGAPORE'S NATIONAL LIBRARY (Winner, New Building Category), is a 16-storey innovative building with bioclimatic design techniques, having a floor area of about 57,800 square meters, 10 percent of which is devoted to "sky courts", and landscaped areas.

The building is made up of two blocks interconnected by bridges to ensure that the library spaces are not affected by the activities in the other block.

The building is oriented so that the internal spaces are protected from direct solar radiation and heat buildup. In addition, natural ventilation is aided by mechanical means in several spaces.

Notable features include motion sensor lighting, daylight-saving lighting control system to allow internal and external light control, high-efficiency chillers for the air-conditioning system and carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide sensors to ensure constant supply of fresh air.

Malaysia—First Runner-up

The Putrajaya International Convention Centre of Malaysia is the first runner-up. It is located within Putrajaya, the new administrative capital of Malaysia. The building's unique curvilinear design combines the traditional shape and concept of the ancient kite and the royal belt buckle. The roof structure is like an origami structure with an expansive roof that is designed to collect rainwater. Natural light illumines the auditorium through raked glass.

It has a total floor area of about 135,000 square meters spread over 9 floors. It uses chilled water supply from a gas district cooling plant via chilled water piping system. This system cuts down on energy as there is no need for the operation of the chillers and cooling towers.

Other features are high-efficiency lighting luminaires, electronic ballasts, zoning of lighting circuits and switches, escalators with infrared sensors for automatic operation, centralized vacuum system for cleaning purposes, rain sensors to shut down the automatic irrigation system when there is adequate rainfall.

Thailand—Second Runner-up

The second runner-up is Thailand's Krung Thai Bank Head Office, a 38,800 square meter 30-story building with a naturally ventilated 12-story car park.

Some of the green features are proper building orientation with the elevator core located on the west side of the building. To avoid heat buildup, they installed double layer insulated glass and metal cladding fins. Air-lighted window and glazing prevent air leakage. Curtain wall glazing are placed on the northern and southern sides of the building because they are least exposed to the sun.

The author is the chair of the board of judges, Asean Energy Award. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

MALAYSIA'S PUTRAJAYA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, (First Runner-Up, New Building Category), located on top of a prominent hill, is the brainchild of Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahatir Muhamad. It has achieved energy efficiency through building design, building orientation, extensive landscaping and protection of windows from solar penetration and energy management system

Pacific Residences evolving urban living standards

A COMMUNITY OF GRAND design and with an entire range of real estate options located right inside the metropolis is truly an excellent find. The leader in developing attainable yet luxuriously appointed, veritable investment residences, Camella Prestige recently embarked on its first inner-city development, the Pacific Residences in Taguig City.

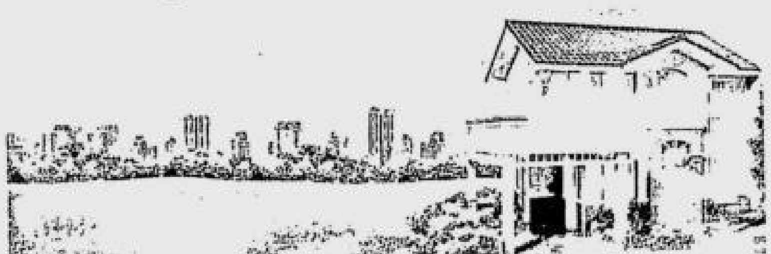
Camella Prestige is a proud member of Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc., the Philippines' largest home builder offering homes for all income segments and catering to different lifestyles across the entire country.

Evolving for Filipino families

Camella Prestige is evolving real estate standards to complement the lifestyle and living requirements of Filipinos diligently working for their family's future. Every development is guided by the four cornerstones of a truly prestigious yet unpretentious residential community: intricate and master-planned design, added diversity of home options, premium location, and utilizing only top-of-the-line materials.

Already under full-blast construction, Pacific Residences is a self-contained, fully integrated community with a collection of condominiums, single-attached homes and townhomes, influenced by the distinctive architecture of neo-Victorian San Francisco.

A FIRST of its kind Victorian San Francisco-inspired development of Camella Prestige.

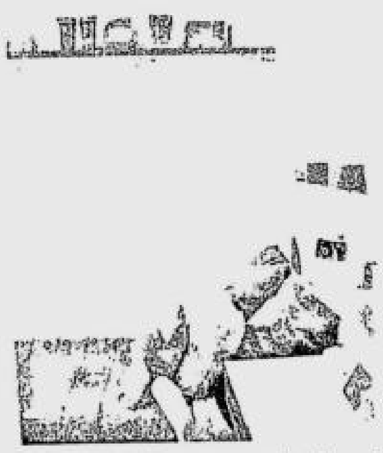


A P1.5 BILLION development, the Pacific Residences is Camella Prestige's first inner-city project.

Well-appointed homes

Pacific Residences has an enclave of well-appointed homes to provide ample space as your children grow and the family's living requirements escalate. The Natalie single-attached homes, with a floor area of 111 sq m on a minimum 99-sq-m lot, include three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, a balcony, carport, a room for household help and provisions for a lanai.

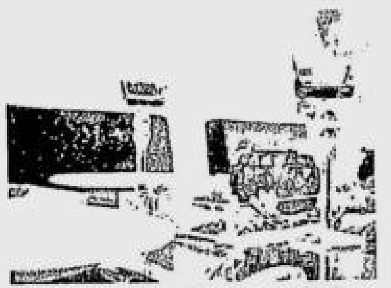
The Pamela single-attached homes, with a floor area of 94 sq m on a minimum 88-sq-m lot, has a spacious living room, three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, a balcony and carport. Each of these homes is elegantly designed with eye-catching details, exuding a subtle charm reflecting the lifestyle tastes of residents.



A RELAXING retreat at day's end

Vertical residences

The condominium enclave of Pacific Residences features a resort-style ambiance, has three five-story, low-rise towers offering accommodations for upwardly mobile individuals and their families: one-bedroom units with a 23 sq m of floor area, two- and three-bedroom units with floor spaces of 40 sq m and 55 sq m, respectively. Parking slots are available as well. Price begins at P1.2 million.



INTERIORS and intricate design details to complement urban lifestyle

Surpassing standards

The Queen Townhomes offer four models with floor areas ranging from 136 to 177 sq m and lot areas from 89 to 106 sq m.

With high ceilings and modern interiors, these three-story townhomes are luxuriously spacious by urban standards. The carport is situated in the rear of each unit so that residents may fully enjoy the picturesque San Francisco-inspired streetscape.

Lifestyle amenities

Complementing the array of residential options is a commercial area complete with entertainment and lifestyle facilities. The area will have choice shops, cafés and restaurants to evoke the ambiance of San Francisco's Union Square.

Leisure amenities at Pacific Residences lend a new meaning to "inner-city" living with the existence of a multipurpose hall with a fitness center, swimming pool and playpark. The outdoors offer instant rejuvenation as well with meditation trails, wide jogging paths and bike lanes spread around the community.

Strategic site

Pacific Residences boasts an unbeatable location in terms of value and proximity, because it is located on Taguig Diversion Road in Taguig City just off the C-5 artery, within a 5-kilometer radius of Makati. Fort Bonifacio is a next-door neighbor, with Market! Market! a short drive away. The Ortigas business center is a mere 15-minute ride to the north with Quezon City just beyond; the South Luzon Expressway and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport are equally accessible in the other direction.

For more information about Camella Prestige's Pacific Residences, call 496-2420, 496-8032, 0918-9370889 and 0927-5250752 or log on to www.camella.com.ph.

Birds find sanctuary . . .

From page B2-4

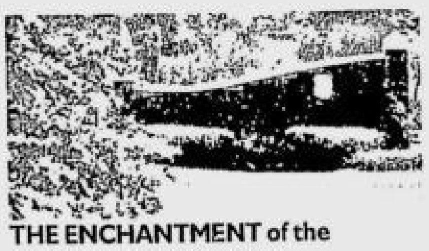
which yielded many interesting information. Although the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has yet to come up with a definitive database, it is estimated that 30 percent of the world's bird species are in the Philippines.

Within two hours of scanning the heavens, the group identified 25 species. Sighted were Chestnut Munia, Black-naped Oriole, Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, Coppersmith Barbet, White-collared Kingfisher, Gold-naped Barbet, Lesser Coucal, Long-tailed Shrike, Pacific Swallow, Ring-necked Parakeet, Pied Fantail, Striated Grassbird, Slender-billed Crow, Red Turtle Doves, and Zebra Dove. They expect the number to triple in future sighting activities.

Planting more trees

To further protect this delicate ecological system, Brittany has been planting more trees within Georgia Club, but only those that are native to the area. This ensures that the place is fit for the birds to inhabit.

"At Georgia Club, we offer something that others may have overlooked or forgotten," Sadiasa said. This recent bird watching activity was an eye-opener for many of our clients. This is exactly what the finer things in life are all about—waking up each morning in a beautiful home that also sustains nature and its creatures. I cannot imagine life getting any better than this!"



THE ENCHANTMENT of the American South beckons.

JUNIOR bird watchers on the prowl

Georgia Club is located in the booming suburb of Sta. Rosa, Laguna. It provides twin access points—either through the Sta. Rosa exit at the South Luzon Expressway or through the Asia Brewery-Greenfield exit. This 30-hectare property exudes gracious Southern gentility with its gabled roofs, tall, evenly spaced windows, dormers and high ceilings.

2 model homes

Two model homes are open for viewing—Fairfax and Augusta.

Fairfax is a charming three-bedroom home with a breathtaking vision of sky blue and white trimmings. Augusta is likewise the epitome of Southern elegance in the midst of a modern landscape. A stately presence set against a lush scenery, it has all the classic elements of Southern architecture such as the wrap-around porch, plantation windows, and ornate roof and ceiling details.

For property previews of Georgia Club, call 850-2868 or 850-3084 or visit www.brittany-georgia-club.com.

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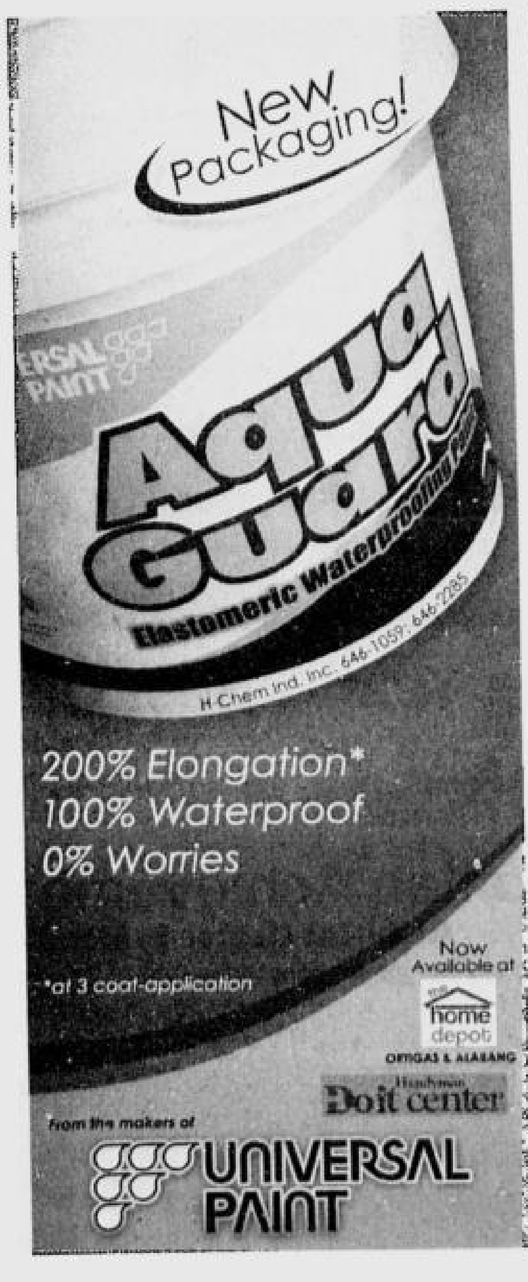

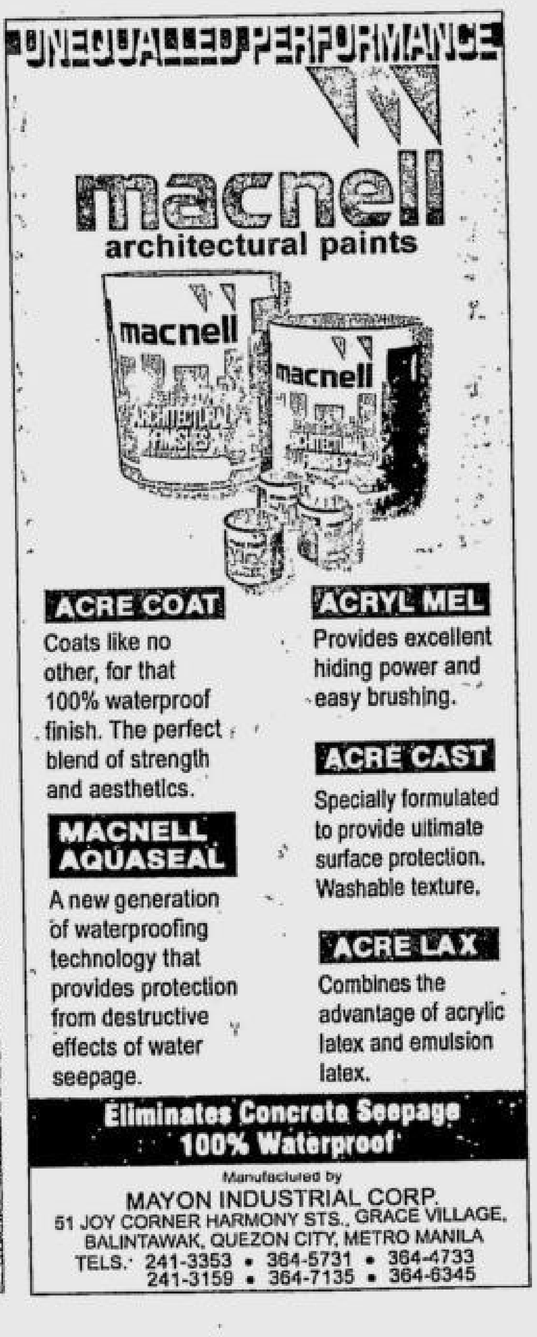
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Wanted: Pinoy aspirants to world's largest architectural award

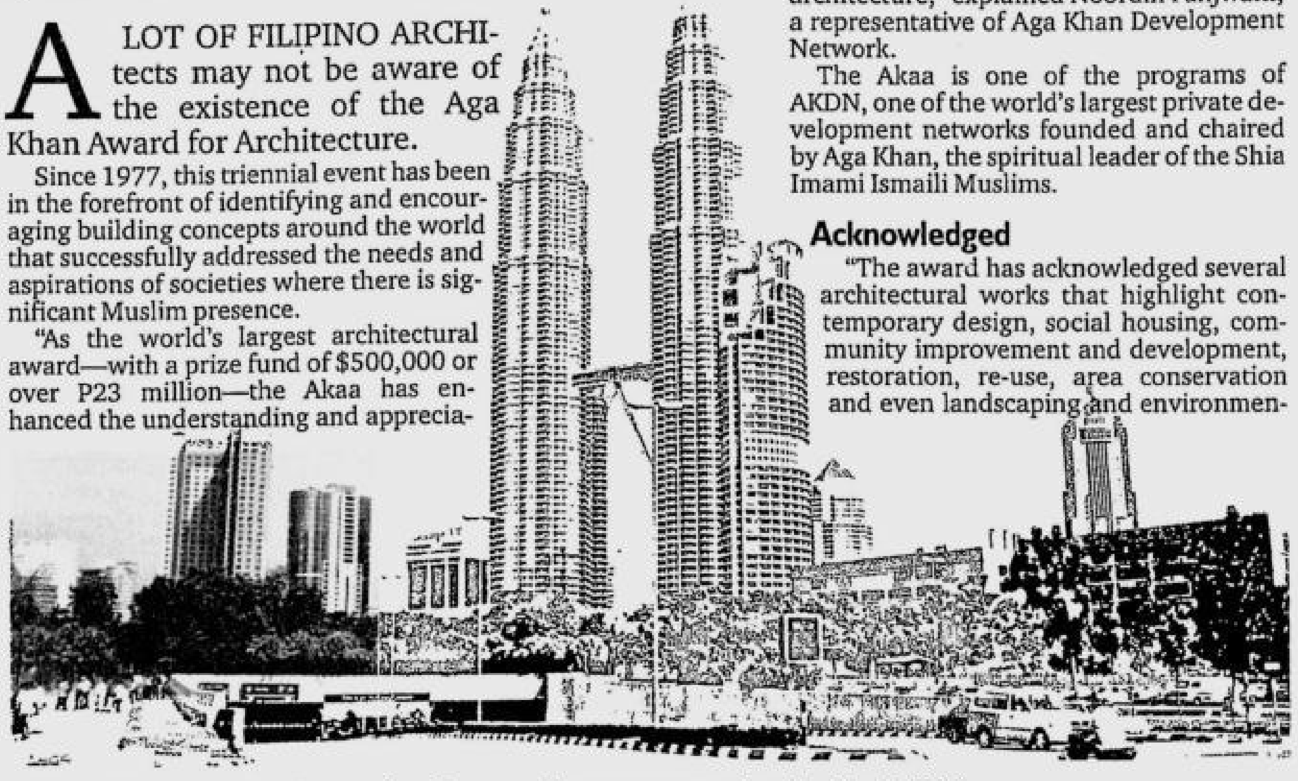
By Charles E. Buban

A LOT OF FILIPINO ARCHITECTS may not be aware of the existence of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

Since 1977, this triennial event has been in the forefront of identifying and encouraging building concepts around the world that successfully addressed the needs and aspirations of societies where there is significant Muslim presence.

"As the world's largest architectural award—with a prize fund of $500,000 or over P23 million—the Akaa has enhanced the understanding and appreciation of Islamic culture expressed through architecture," explained Noordin Panjwani, a representative of Aga Khan Development Network.

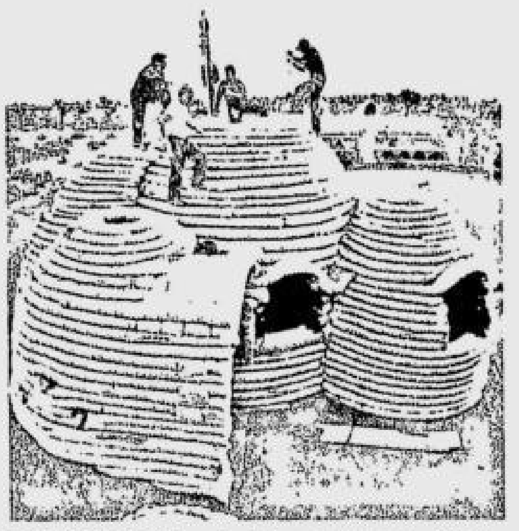
The Akaa is one of the programs of AKDN, one of the world's largest private development networks founded and chaired by Aga Khan, the spiritual leader of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims.



RISING 452 meters, the ultra-modern Petronas Towers was recognized by Akaa in 2004.

Acknowledged

"The award has acknowledged several architectural works that highlight contemporary design, social housing, community improvement and development, restoration, re-use, area conservation and even landscaping and environmental issues," Panjwani said.



INEXPENSIVE and quick to build, this 2004 Akaa awardee uses sandbag and unique construction technology that could be replicated anywhere in the world.

He added that although the award is yet to recognize a project coming from the Philippines, Panjwani is hoping a project will be nominated in time for the next awarding in 2010.

"The Philippines has a significant Muslim population and we would like to inform that the Akaa has no fixed criteria as to the size, type, nature, location or cost of the projects that could be considered so long as they are designed for or used by Muslim communities, in part or in whole or if they give positive impact on Muslim communities and surrounding environment," he explained.

For example, while Akaa recognized Malaysia's ultramodern Petronas Towers in 2004, it also cited an inexpensive yet sturdy shelter project constructed from sandbags as well as the efforts done in rebuilding Bibliotheca Alexandrina (the legendary ancient library built in classical Greek times) in Egypt.

Site evaluation

Panjwani added that winning entries are not judged merely on submitted plans and photographs as the award's Master Jury (an independent team of experts) visit the actual site to evaluate the finalists.

So far, the award has already recognized 92 projects all over the world while documented over 7,500 building projects that were nominated.

On its 10th staging (covering the years from 2005 to 2007), 343 projects were presented for consideration, 27 of which were reviewed on site.

Winners

Finally, nine winners were chosen. These were the Samir Kassir Square in Beirut, Lebanon; rehabilitation of the City of Shibam in Yemen; a central market in Koudougou, Burkina Faso (in Africa); University of Technology Petronas in Bandar Seri Iskandar, Malaysia; restoration of the Amiriya Complex in Rada, Yemen; Moulmein Rise Residential Tower in Singapore; Royal Netherlands Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; rehabilitation of the Walled City in Nicosia, Cyprus; and a school in Rudrapur in Dinajpur, Bangladesh.

The awarding was held recently in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia with no less than Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and the award's founder Aga Khan announcing the winners.

"We believe that in the near future, a project coming from the Philippines will not only be cited for providing the country's Muslim communities physical, social and economic needs, but also worthy of the Akaa," Panjwani said.

Birds find sanctuary at Brittany's Georgia Club

TAKING THE WORD "SANCTUARY" to heart, Brittany Corp.'s Georgia Club has created a unique property that endeavors to protect the delicate balance of the ecological system while fashioning a luxury residential development.

Within its boundaries is a refuge where local birds have taken shelter, nesting on the multitude of trees that buried their roots in Georgia Club's rich soil. These winged creatures have now become a focal point in this development and a delight for bird watchers.

A proud member of Vista Land, the country's largest home builder, maverick real estate developer Brittany once again sets itself apart with this sensitive approach to property development and the environment it works with.

"We noticed while developing the area that there were so many birds in the property. So we invited the Wild Bird Club to see what they thought of what for us was a phenomenon. Because, really, you get to see so many in the air and on the ground! It can be a very moving sight to behold," Brittany's managing director Marylee Sadiasa declared.

"Apparently, many of the birds moved in with us after their habitat was destroyed in the neighboring properties. They were quite happy to take refuge in Georgia Club even if it's a residential development because from the very beginning, our masterplan took into consideration the existing trees and we've made a commitment to maintain their population. These birds literally found a home in Georgia Club."

Bird watching

Brittany recently held a bird watching activity for clients with the assistance of the Wild Bird Club

BIRDS/ B2-3

AUGUSTA: an epitome of southern elegance

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A World-Class Lake Resort Community
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The timeless elegance of classic Mediterranean architecture combined with the grandest elements of Earth, Water and Sky creates a lifestyle that soars above and beyond the ordinary. This self-contained community boasts of its 12-hectare man-made lake framed by the majestic panorama of Mount Arayat.

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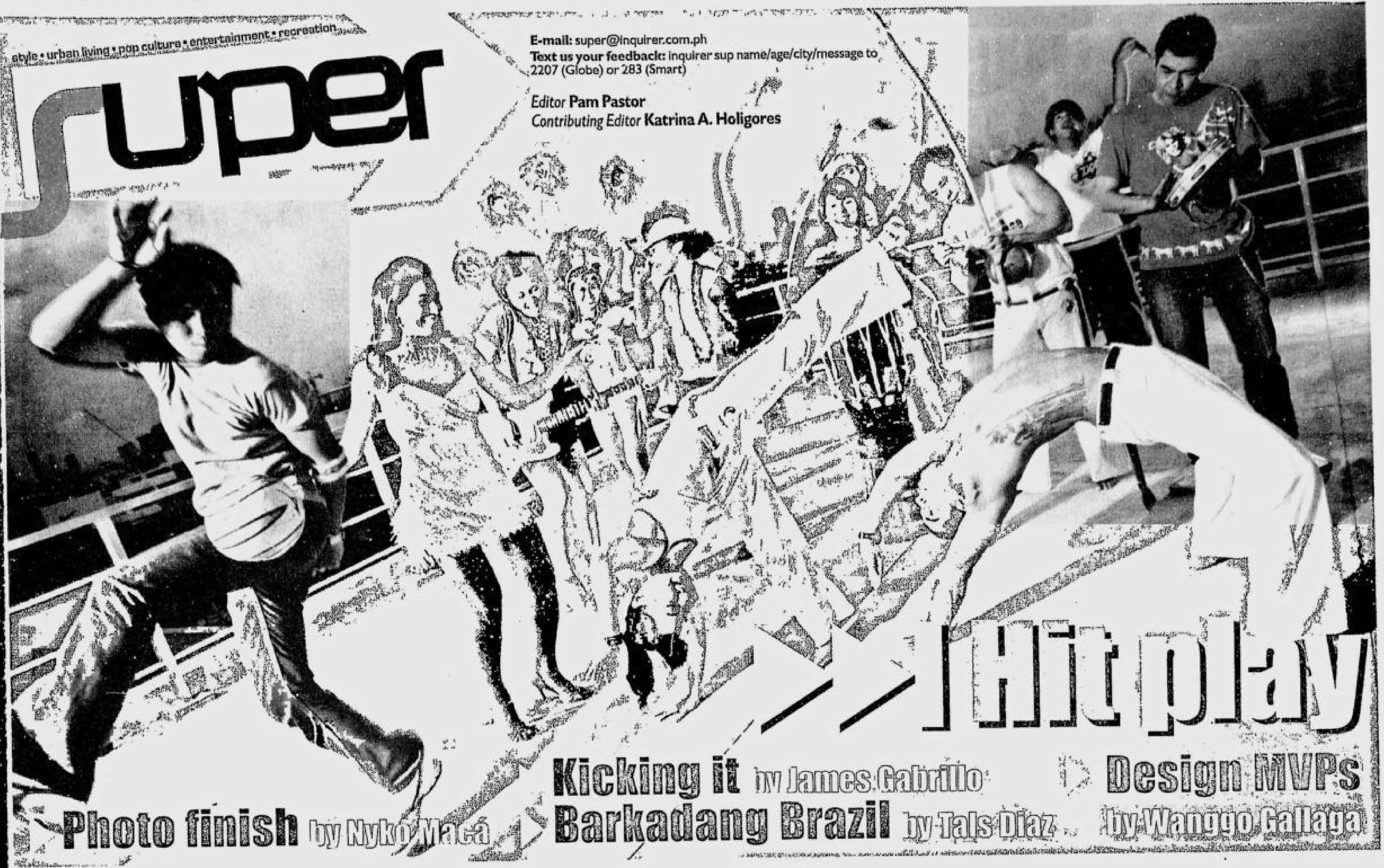

Hit play

Kicking it by James Gabrillo

Barkadang Brazil by Tals Diaz

Design MVPs by Wanggo Gallaga

Photo finish by Nyko Maca

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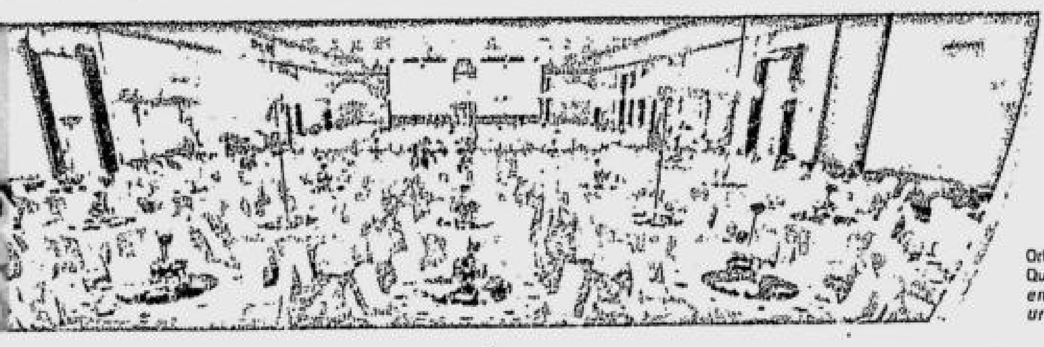

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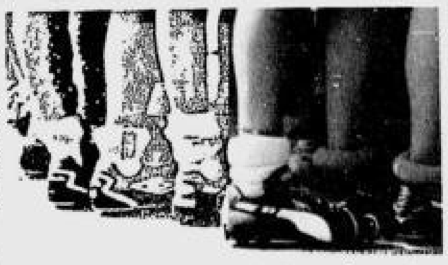

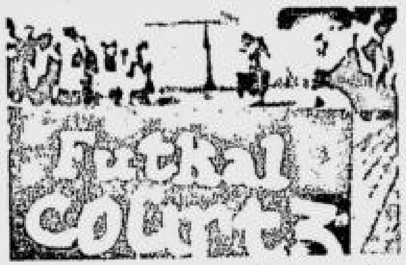

Kicking the ball, running and scoring goals

THUNDER ROAD

James Gabrillo

PERSONIFYING HEADS-UP FOOTball, he is always looking for a gap, large and small, to expose. Above all, he is not afraid to take risks. For football star Peter Amores, helping young people learn about life through sports is way more satisfying than working for a corporate establishment.

The idea came to Peter in the middle of the World Cup season last year. During that time, he felt that he was employed at a dead-end job that would not get him anywhere. He shares, "Yes I was getting paid, yes I was getting all these benefits; but at the end of the day, I'd always think, 'Is this what I really want for myself in the coming years?'"

Bitten by the bug, he thought of FutKal, which stands for *Football sa Kalye* or street soccer. Influenced by the Brazilian way of approaching and developing the sport, Peter decided to begin an unprecedented crusade to tell young Filipinos about the wonderful game of football.

Street soccer is a big pillar in football—where players who don't have the chance to play pro get to show their rad skills. In Brazil, street football is played everywhere. A peek at the backgrounds of the Brazilian football stars reveals that most of them started playing on the streets. Underprivileged compared to those of others in their society, the lives of Pele, Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Rivaldo and hordes more were uplifted because of football.

Peter believes that like in business, being street-smart is an advantage. "In football, when you start on the streets, you'll be good at strategizing plays. From day one, I've imagined FutKal serving primarily as an introduction to the sport. When we see that a kid has potential, we take him to the clinics and give him scholarships so that he would have the opportunity to be a great football player of the country."

New football generation on the street

Armed with his gallant ideas, Peter got in touch with Gang Badoy and Rock Ed, a group that promotes alternative rock education for the youth. After further collaborations with Gawad Kalinga, Peter started the very first FutKal project—training the kiddos of Baseco three times a week. Without getting a single cent, he taught the kids for more than six months. The twenty kids played barefoot. "After jumping into the sea, I got the inner peace and satisfaction that I was looking for," he tells me.

It's a good thing that Peter's mom was very supportive. Even if he wasn't earning any *moolah* out of the task, she understood that he was doing something good. Through the allowance she sent Peter, the kids were able to munch on something after each training session. "Imagine, I had to share my allowance with the twenty kids because they had to eat after training. I spent like five bucks for each kid—that was enough to buy two to four pieces of *pandesal* and *ice tubig* (water)," Peter recalls.

After training, he talks to the kids about what they learned from practice and how they can apply these little lessons in their everyday lives. "I tell them that they don't need to feel sad with whatever it is that they have now," he says.

He would tell the kids stories of people whose lives have been changed by football. Aiming to inspire, he thinks that these children have way too many negative reinforcements from their immediate environments. He recounts the story of an 8-year-old boy who'd show up in practice right after sniffing rugby. Peter felt that it would be unfair not to allow the kid to train. He thinks that what the kid really wanted was to have something to eat.

An experience like that has given Peter growth that he deems is irreplaceable. He admits that he has learned from the kids what he should truly value in life. "It makes you contented with who you are and what you have. Maybe God put me there for something," he says.

Alternative music and film—why not alt sport?

FutKal aims to take away the stereotype that football can only be played in the field. The truth is that you can play it anywhere, as long as there's an open lot and you're not causing a nuisance or trouble. Peter tells me that he wants FutKal to be a recreational activity of the Filipinos, similar to *patintero* and *habulan*. Ten years from now, he dreams of FutKal becoming a household name, with kids inviting their neighbors to play: *"Uy laro na tayong FutKal!"*

Kapag usapang
nutrisyon,
may mukha kaming
ihaharap.

ALASKA
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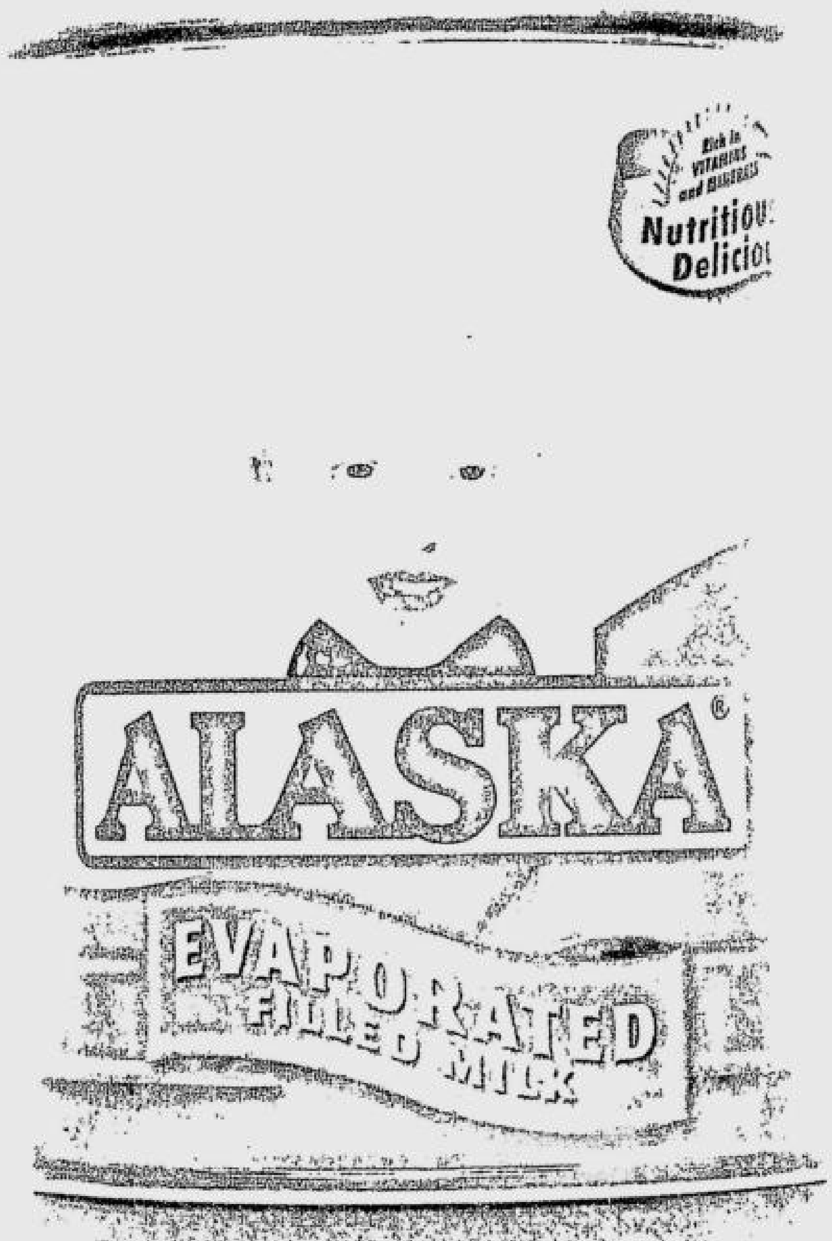


Football wonderguy Peter Amores is gaining street cred one alternative lesson at a time

Excuses, Philippines!

DOUBLE-HEADER. Striker meets striker

THAT'S AMORES. Bend it like Peter

Described as a fast-paced, high-energy, high-scoring game, FutKal is an extraordinary sport that has no rules or boundaries, just basic guidelines and music that adds rhythm to the game. Subscribing to a unique training system, FutKal even has a soundtrack of Brazilian beats, Filipino rock anthems and mainstream/pop music that aids in setting the mood and pace of the game.

"We do drills that you don't see in football clinics. We train with Brazilian music. Like, for example, you know *tinikling*? We do that—but instead of wooden sticks, the kids jump on balls. It's good for foot coordination," Peter explains.

Even Japanese World Cup superstar Hidetoshi Nakata sees FutKal as a breakthrough development in Philippine football. He showed his support to FutKal last year when he played street football with the kids of Barangay Rosario in Pasig. He also donated soccer balls to the organization. Peter recalls, "Nakata's visits were really memorable. No matter how much money I have, I'll never be able to replace the experience that the kids had with him—playing football, chatting about things. He actually thought there was no football here in our country."

Breeding our islands' next wave of athletes

The United Nations Special Advisor on Sport for Development and Peace Adolf Ogi once said, "Sport is the best school of life." Peter sees this as a guiding principle for their distinct organization. The title "Futkalista," he shares, is an athlete that manifests a positive character in sports and possesses a purpose-driven life.

Appealing to all players belonging to all walks of life, the sport is building bridges never before seen in the industry. It hammers to the kids values like discipline, camaraderie and equality. As the biggest soccer NGO Street Football World puts it, "Football is a means of access to young people who cannot be approached in any other way."

At the moment, Peter is focused on gathering collegiate volunteers, hoping to instill in them the courage to brave the early morning heat amidst hangovers. "We want to give students a bird's eye view of what's going on in the real world. We want them to have social responsibility. Hopefully because of their FutKal experience, when they graduate, they can be the change that they want to be."

Pump up the local adrenaline

Peter wishes that Futkal be recognized not just by the football community but by all Filipinos. He believes that football can help uplift the state of the country, stressing that if there's one sport where Pinoys can truly excel in, it would be football.

I agree. A review of football history in the Philippines tells one of Iloilo-born Paulino Alcantara's goal-scoring escapades that not a lot of people may know about. Known as "El Matador," Alcantara's a half-Pinoy, half-Spanish player in Barcelona. He scored 374 goals in 375 games. Until now, no one has beaten that record. This was back in the days before World War, when football was at its peak here in our country, thanks to our Spanish colonizers.

But after World War, all our players died and all our football fields were destroyed. In came the Western influence—there's a sort of myth that the Americans brought in basketball to the country because they couldn't beat us in football. Peter makes a very strong point when he said that no matter how much we invest in basketball, we'll never beat the US. But in football, we have a chance.

FREE KICK. Talented youngsters get a chance at football

CHILD'S PLAY. Football hero Nakata kicks it with the kids

"I've been competing since I was young and I know a lot of coaches who bring kids in international competitions. General consensus is that Filipino players ages 6-12 are at par with other international competitors. They say it'll take ten years for a nation to build football in a country. But here, we can do it in five years—we have the technology. But first we have to change the leaders in the football scene so the real talented players can showcase their talents."

Running in the right lane

When he was in sixth grade, Peter was made to choose between joining either the basketball or football varsity team. He chose football because he knew his height was a disadvantage for him in basketball. Playing as a left-winger, Peter thinks that nothing compares to the sport.

He believes that football has changed his whole outlook in life, affecting him in the various aspects of his character. He shares, "I have three tattoos—wings on my left arm to represent my position as left-winger in football, a cross at my back because I'm a real God-fearing and spiritual individual, and a Japanese character, also at my back, that means love, which is what my last name 'Amores' means."

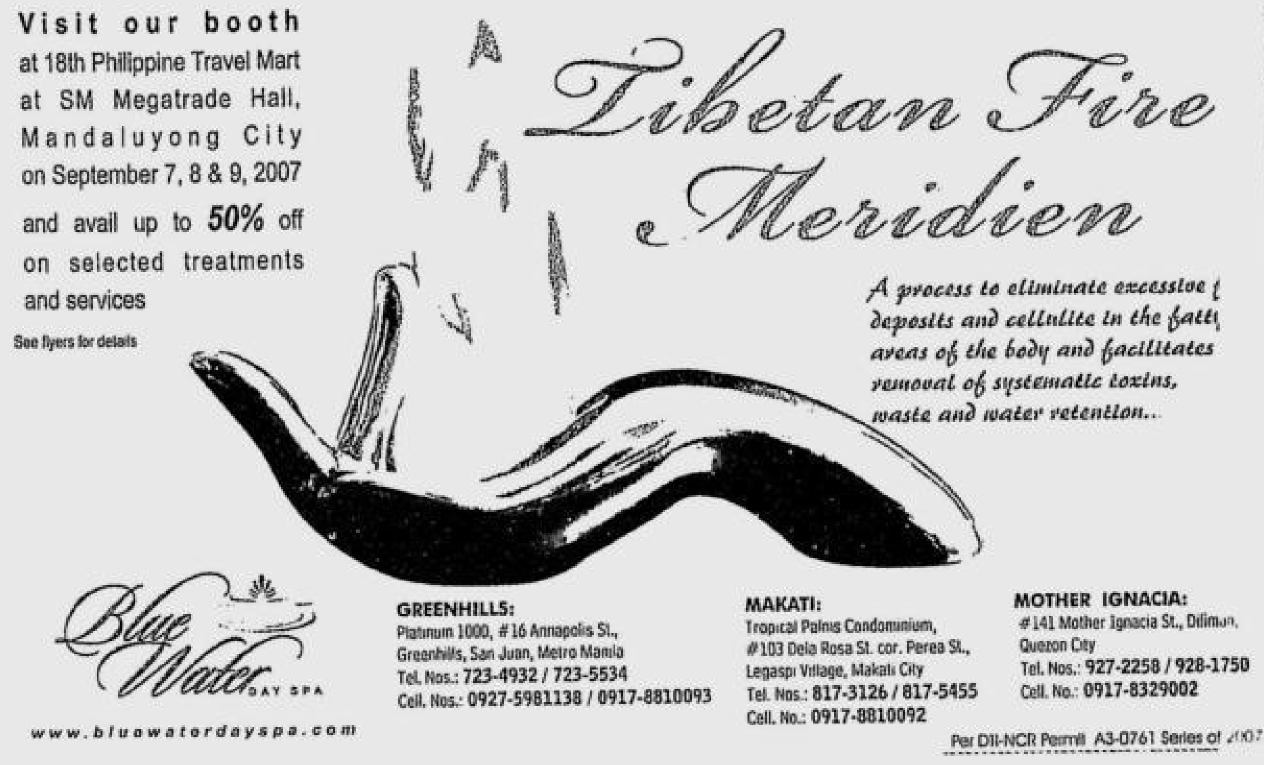
Focusing on his spiritual side, Peter tells me that his faith has played a big role in making him stay on with the task of changing the world one football lesson at a time. "It's very basic, you see. If you have good intentions, you will attract the good too. If FutKal doesn't achieve its true purpose in a few years, it would be all right. It may not come now in our time, but it will in His—that would be the perfect timing! The important thing is we're trying our best now."

I noticed that in the end, it's really about his cause. "All you need is six months of hard work to excel at a sport. Our countrymen should apply the same mentality in life and we'll be OK. I see every Filipino as my brother. I call everyone *'kapatid.'* That's why I'm trying to help them out, starting with the youth. See, the more fun the kids get from FutKal, the more they'll spend time with us and the more they'll be safe."

It's no wonder that Peter is relishing every game he plays—especially the Futkal ones. Having made it through the most challenging yet eye-opening months of his life, he understands that he has debts to honor: to his family; to his team; to the volunteers; to the kids who look to him as a role model. And above all he owes it to himself to fulfill his potential. He's made a good start.

Not only is Peter Amores a better player now, he is also a better man.

Visit futkal.multiply.com and pinoysoccer.com.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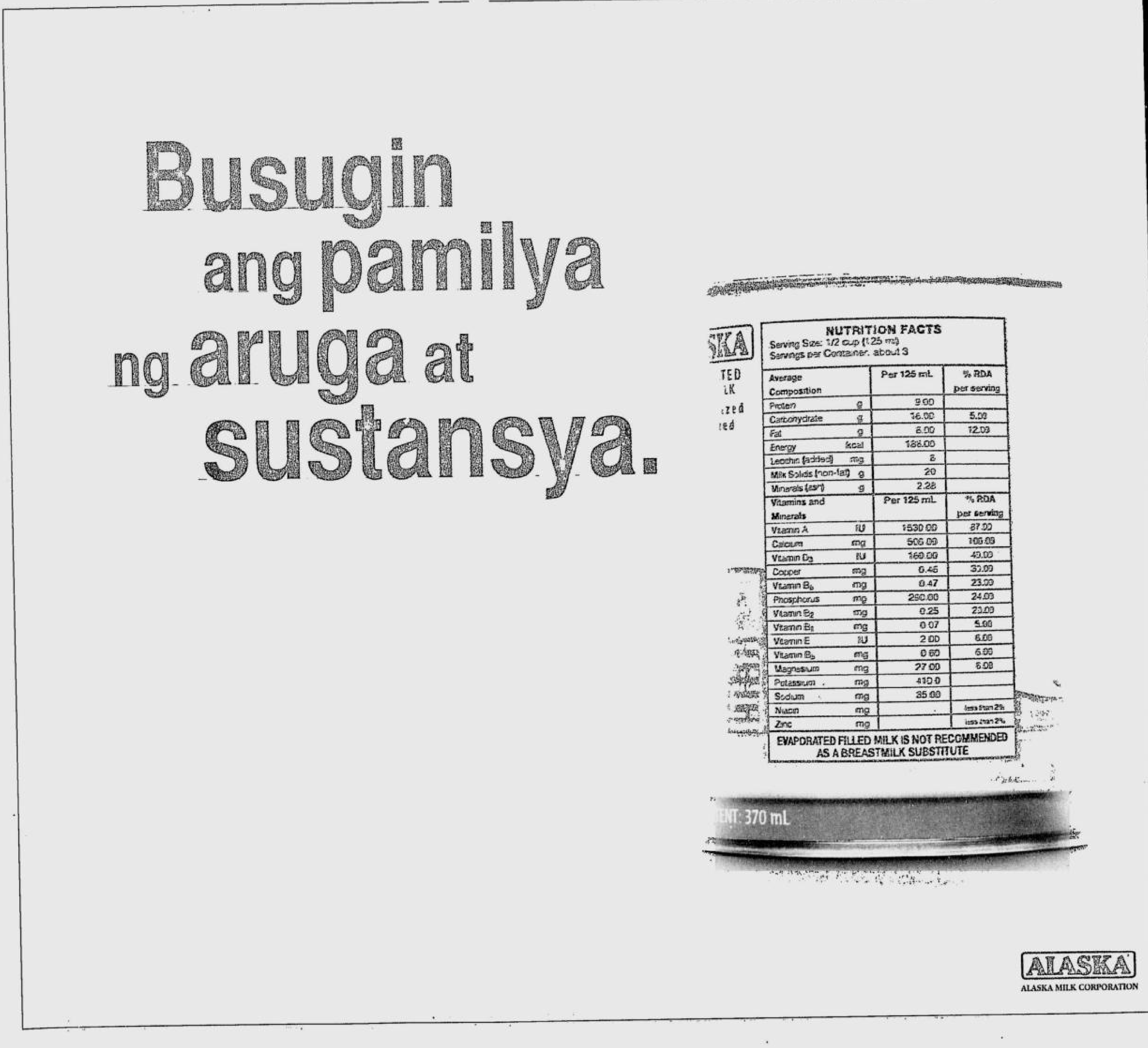

Busugin ang pamilya ng aruga at sustansya.

NUTRITION FACTS
Serving Size: 1/2 cup (125 mL)
Servings per Container: about 3

Average Composition		Per 125 mL	% RDA per serving
Protein	g	9.00	
Carbohydrate	g	16.00	5.00
Fat	g	8.00	12.00
Energy	kcal	186.00	
Lecithin (added)	mg	8	
Milk Solids (non-fat)	g	20	
Minerals (ash)	g	2.28	
Vitamins and Minerals		Per 125 mL	% RDA per serving
Vitamin A	IU	1530.00	87.00
Calcium	mg	506.00	100.00
Vitamin D_3	IU	160.00	40.00
Copper	mg	0.46	30.00
Vitamin B_6	mg	0.47	23.00
Phosphorus	mg	250.00	24.00
Vitamin B_2	mg	0.25	23.00
Vitamin B_1	mg	0.07	5.00
Vitamin E	IU	2.00	6.00
Vitamin B_5	mg	0.60	6.00
Magnesium	mg	27.00	6.00
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switchfoot
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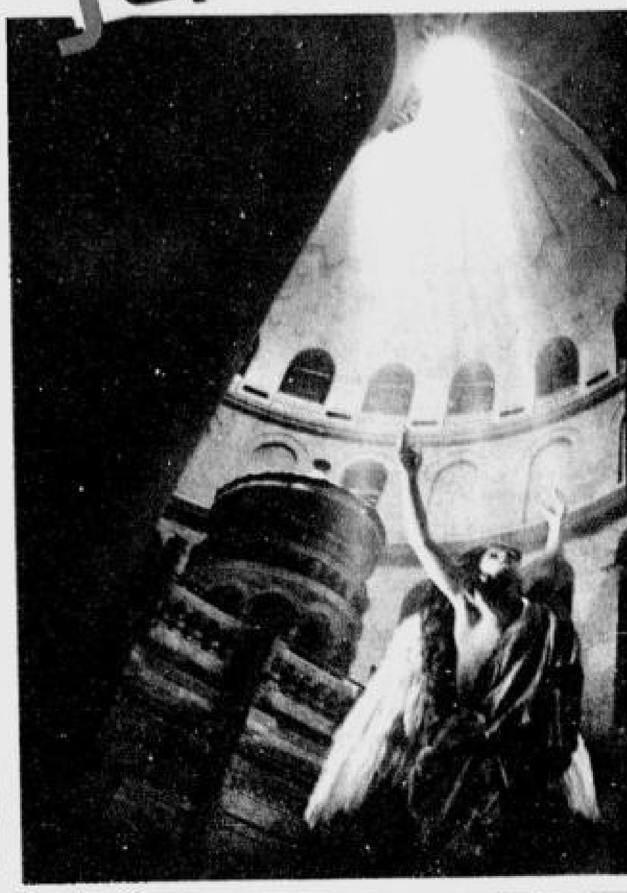
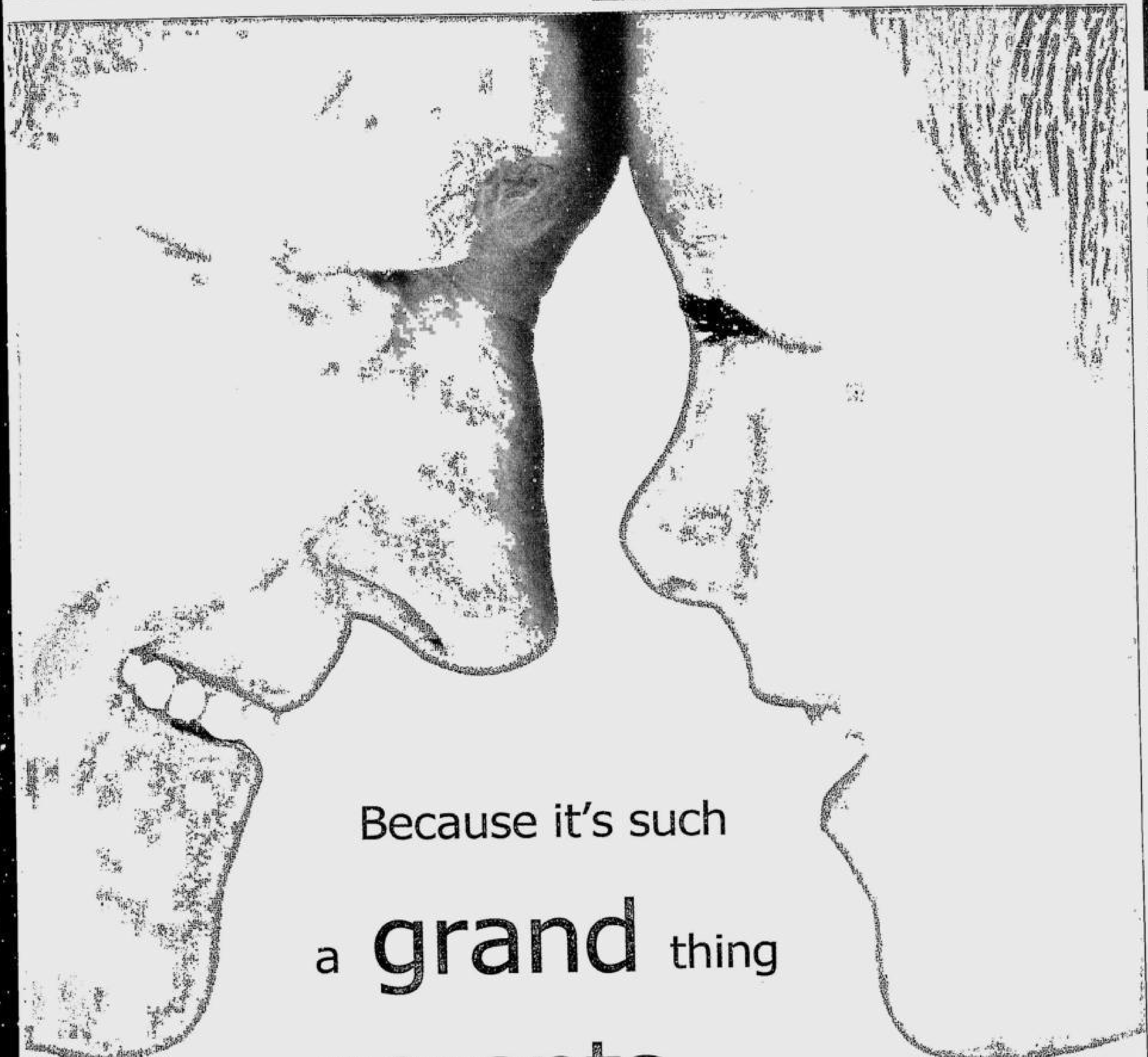
HEAR the stirring sounds of alternative rock band Switchfoot on Monday, Sept. 10, at the Cuneta Astrodome (Roxas Boulevard cor. Libertad, Pasay City). The band who popularized the song "Dare You To Move" (featured in the film "A Walk to Remember") flies in from the US to stage a benefit concert for the International Justice Mission. Call 891-9999.



SEE angels and biblical visions come to life in The Passing of Light, the exhibit of Melbourne-based photographer Emmanuel Santos at Silverlens Gallery (Yupangco Bldg., 2320 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati). Santos' angels fly, swoop, listen, crouch, or salvage lost faith, broken trust and innocence, according to their individual narratives. He will also be giving an Artist Talk this afternoon at 3 p.m. Call 816-0044.



Because it's such a grand thing to be parents of a parent...

Let's celebrate their day with such grandness this Sept. 9.

THE BLOCK
SM City North Edsa

Sept. 8	The Grand Serenade of The U.P. Manila Chorale *A brilliant and internationally-acclaimed youth choir serenades with their amazing voices.*	5pm
Sept. 9	Enervon Power Of The Mind *A very special treat to Grandparents with active minds and stronger bodies*	whole day-affair
Sept. 16	Sail Back To The Good Ol' Times *A relaxing rendition of the classics and all time favorites*	5pm
Sept. 21	Martin Nievera Live at The Block *A voice of power waiting to capture our hearts once again*	5pm

THE PODIUM
your place | your pace

Events at The Lounge

Sept. 9	Grandparents' Day Celebration	3pm onwards
	Vintage Nights with Joe Nicholas' 4-piece Band	4pm-7pm
Sept. 21	Brilliant and Heartwarming Moments with Jose Mari Chan	7pm
Sept. 22	Spectacular Broadway Classics with DLSU Pops Orchestra	6pm

24/7 nocturnal navigator

Super Radar

By Paolo R. Reyes
and Janine Cuenca-Dario

TASTE authentic Hokkien-style lumpia in the Big Binondo Food Wok, which takes place from 2 to 6 p.m. this afternoon. Donning a pigtailed cap, tour guide Ivan ManDy will meet you at the Binondo Church lobby and guide you through a unique culinary adventure. Forget South Beach, experience *Tsinoy chop suey* and more as you nibble your way through Chinatown. Visit oldmanilawalks.com or call 0917-3291622.

FEEL the festive vibe of Brazil as Brasilipinas 2007 kicks off at the Glorietta 3 Park tomorrow, Sept. 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. Organized by the flexible folks at Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Philippines, the week-long festival will feature Capoeira, Futkal and Zips demos. For more information, visit www.ebcphilippines.com.

EXPERIENCE the best of Broadway as Jim Henson-esque Muppets take the stage in Avenue Q, which opens tonight at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium (RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati). This R-rated version of "Sesame Street" addresses adult topics such as racism and pornography, and even promises "full puppet nudity." The Tony Award-winning musical stars Rachel Alejandro, Frenchie Dy and Aiza Seguerra as the actor-operators. Call 891-9999.

Super answers

CELEBRITIES are constantly bombarded with interviews. This time, Super turns the tables on them and gives them the chance to ask the question—and we want you—yes, you—to give them the answers.

Last week, Aubrey Miles wanted to know, 'Is there life on other planets?' Physics grad student Glenn Aguarte answered, "We don't know. But given that there are 200 billion stars on our galaxy alone and there are a multitude of galaxies in the known universe, it would be an awful waste of space if earth is the only one that harbors life. In fact, Drakes equation gives us a way to compute the probability of the existence of intelligent life somewhere else in the Milky Way galaxy. And the result of this equation is that there may be somewhere around 50 to 5000 other intelligent life forms out there, we just haven't found them yet ... or they, us.

P.S. Crush ko si Aubrey Miles! Wahahahaha."

This week, Paolo Bediones wants to know, "Who do you want to be with for the rest your life? Someone you love more or someone who loves you more?"

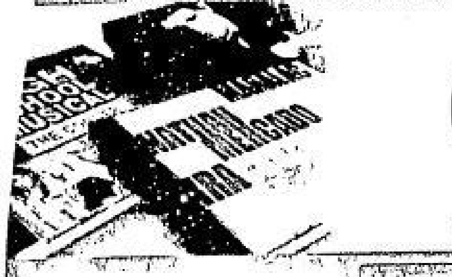
E-mail your answers to super@inquirer.com.ph with the subject heading 'super answers.' Your Super answer will be printed next week.

Real Thrills!

BPI Express Credit
SALE
AMT PHP 3000.00
TOT PHP APPROVED
Anna Dominguez
DOMINGUEZ/ANNA
I AGREE TO PAY THE ABOVE TOTAL AMOUNT ACCORDING TO THE CARD ISSUER AGREEMENT

You get a 5% Rebate!

Get the reward that's right for you! BPI Express Credit



music one

Get **REBATES** on all merchandise for cumulative spend of at least
P1,000 = **3%** • P2,000 = **4%** • P3,000 = **5%**

Always check your charge slip for Real Thrills!
Note: Edge & Mini-Edge continue to get 10% discount on regular priced items
See Newsletter for details. Promo until October 31, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3618. Series of 2007.

call 89-100

BPI

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2007 PHILIPPIN Y INQUIRER **D1**

style • urban living • pop culture • entertainment • recreation

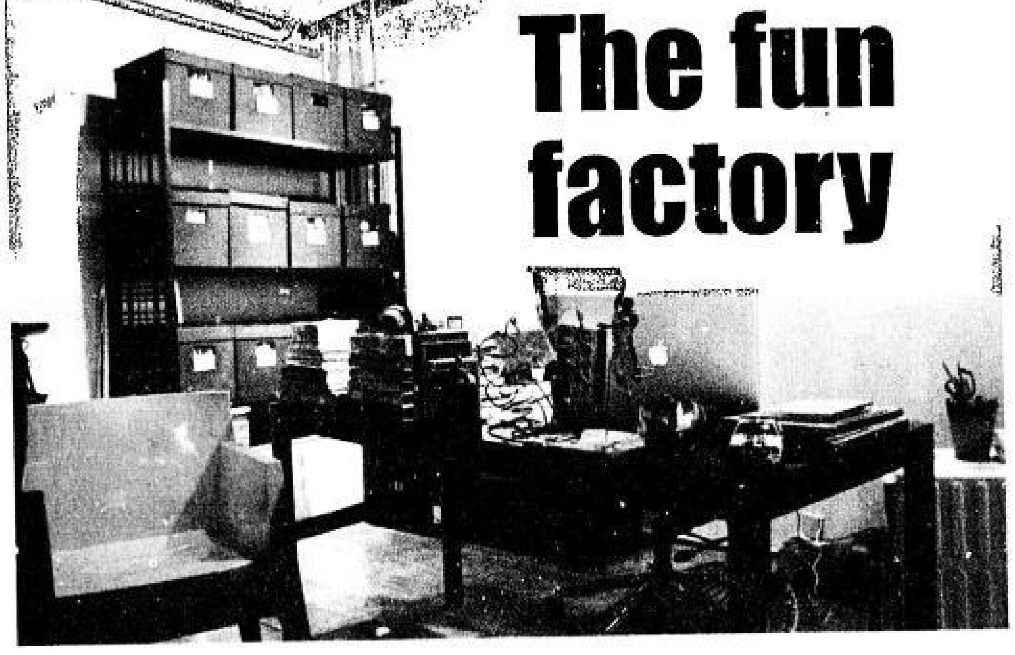
super

E-mail:
super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer sup name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SPACE INVADERS

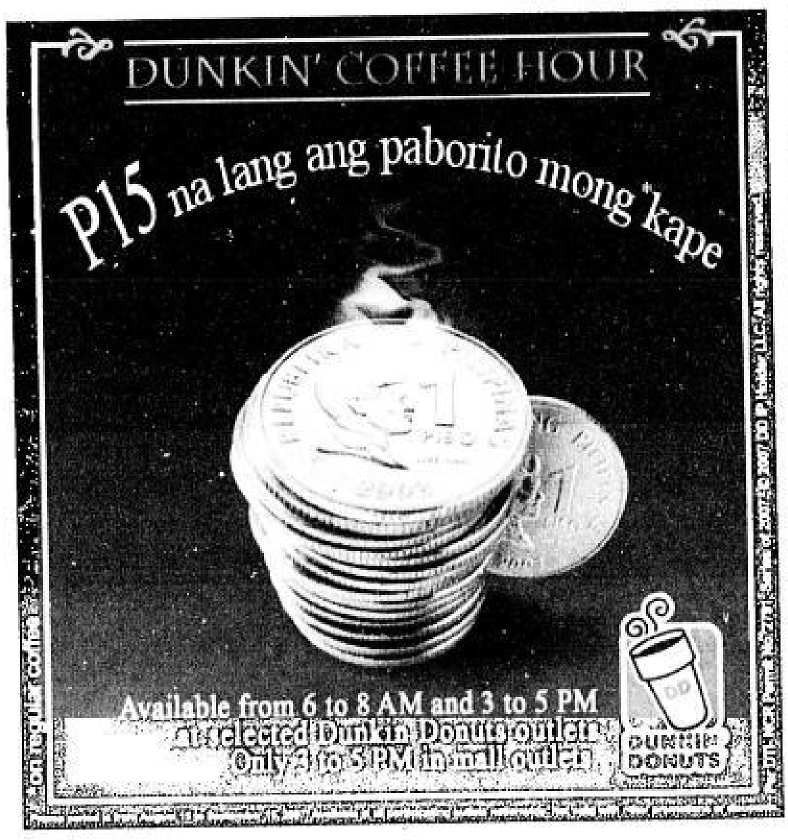
The fun factory



By Wanggo Gallaga
Photos by Joseph Pascual

STANDING SIDE-BY-SIDE ON a solid-looking steel table is a huge figurine of Hellboy and Darth Vader, light saber drawn, facing out into the rest of the office of Futura Extra Bold Design. The two unlikely partners stare out into a mural of a human outline on the orange walls, unaware that the Hulk in all his green fury stands nestled between a funky orange chair with a furry fabric draped over it and a white one. On the ground, the battle between the Alien and the Predator remains unfinished among a neat pile of books and magazines, laid out on the floor. While these toys and figurines might immediately conjure up the image of a comic-book geek's apartment, this is a place of business. On the aforementioned steel table where Darth Vader and Hellboy look ready to engage in combat with

THE FUN/ D4


DUNKIN' COFFEE HOUR

P15 na lang ang paborito mong kape

Available from 6 to 8 AM and 3 to 5 PM
at selected Dunkin Donuts outlets
Only 3 to 5 PM in mall outlets

DUNKIN' DONUTS

mothercare

GRAND OPENING PROMO

up to 30% off
on selected items

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Fashion * Bedding * Nursery * Feeding *
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Mothercare lends more than 45 years of experience and expertise to bring what every mother and her baby needs. Our products meet British Safety Standards and we can confidently say that you are getting nothing but the best in quality. With over 400 stores worldwide, mums of good taste know where to go. Here.

because little things matter

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-0750, Series of 2007.

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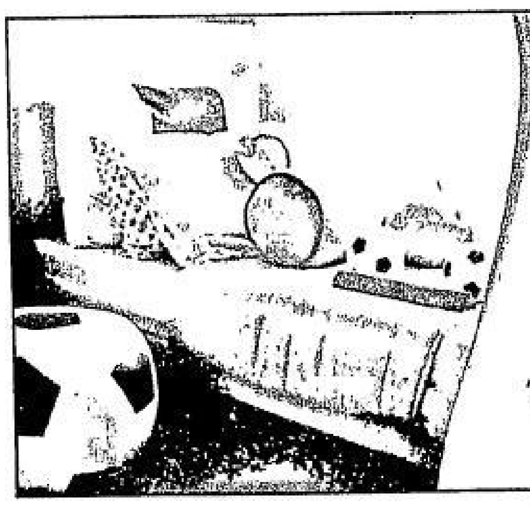

Paborito ng Pamilyang Pinoy!

Camella
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Daang Hari, Alabang
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Tawag na: 772.1096
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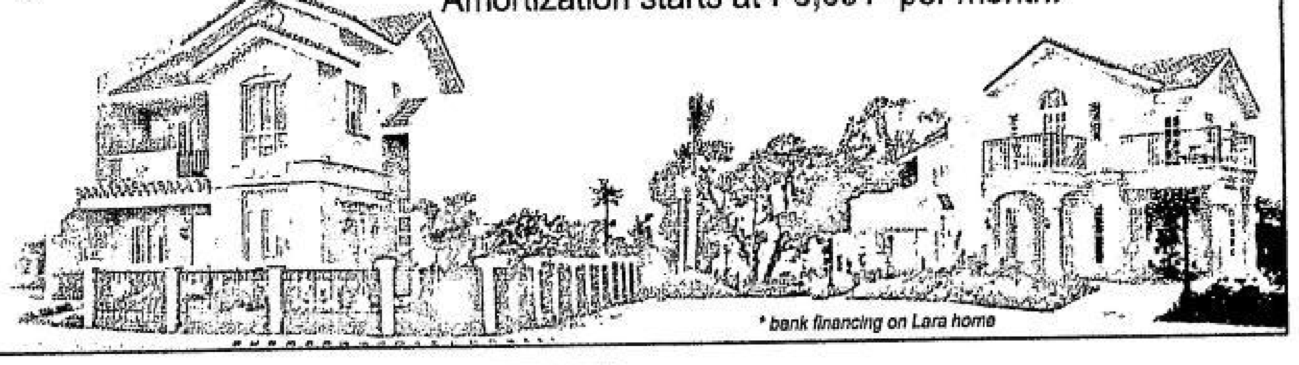
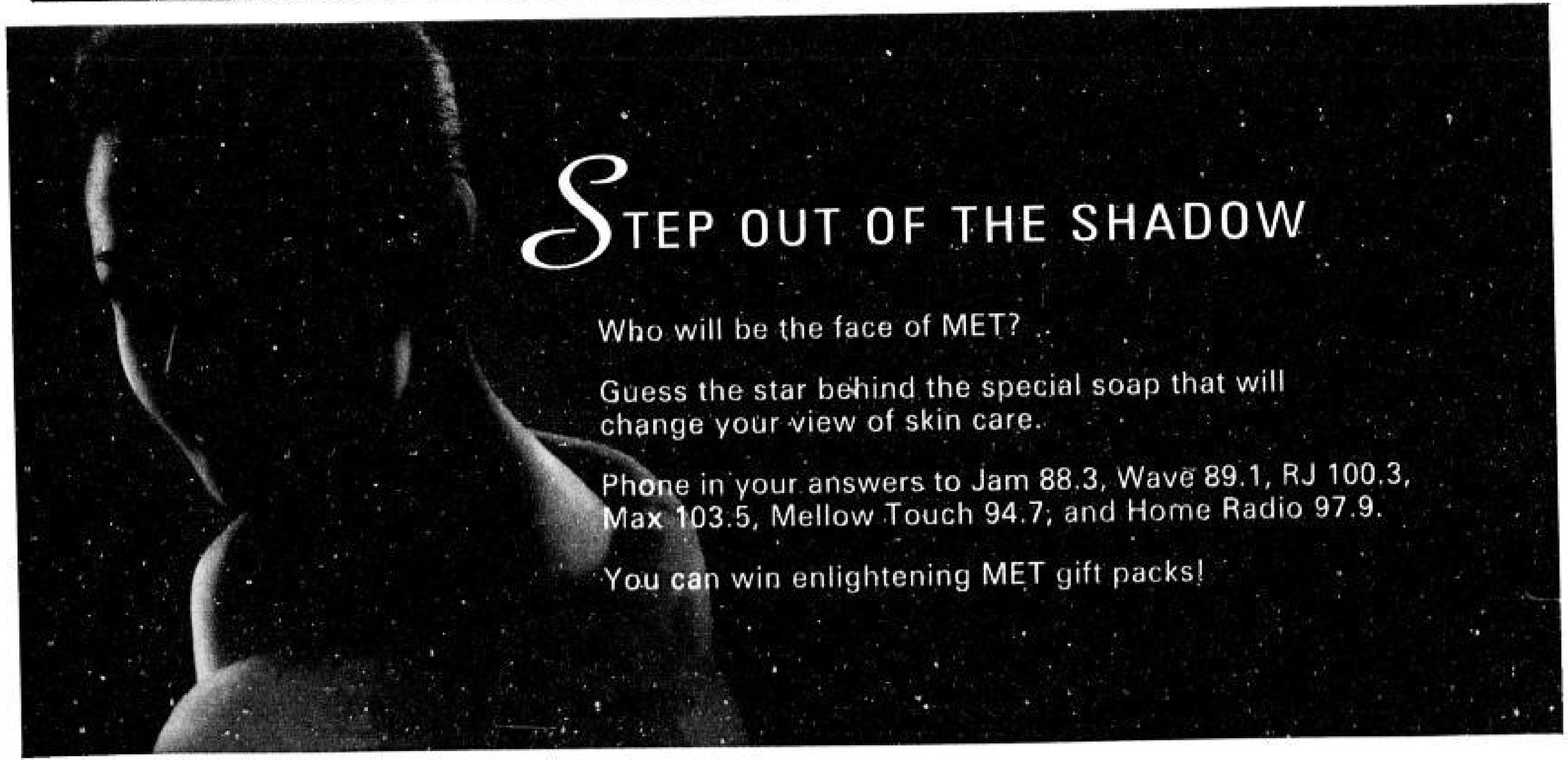
Live in your well deserved home! Easy 5-minute drive to the commercial districts of Alabang and Las Piñas via Daang Hari Road.

Amortization starts at P8,551* per month.



* bank financing on Lara home



STEP OUT OF THE SHADOW

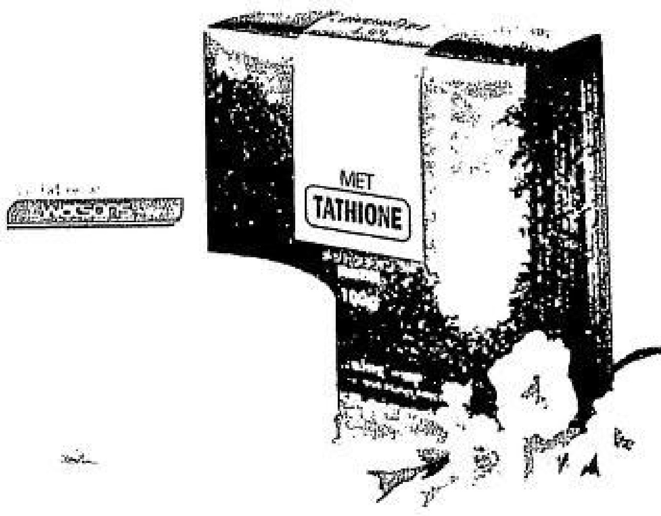
Who will be the face of MET?

Guess the star behind the special soap that will change your view of skin care.

Phone in your answers to Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, RJ 100.3, Max 103.5, Mellow Touch 94.7, and Home Radio 97.9.

You can win enlightening MET gift packs!

Introducing MET premium whitening soap from Japan



WHITENS *PLUS* RESTORES YOUNG SKIN

PepSikat CHALLENGE

JOIN to win Black Eyed Peas Concert Tickets

The global phenomenon "Black Eyed Peas" are an American hip hop crew formed in Los Angeles in 1990 enjoying global success with over 20 million albums sold to date.

Famous for their credible music, artistic collaborations, energetic performances and infectious funk tunes, the group has been nominated four times in the Grammy's and has bagged one Grammy Award!

Its breakthrough album, "Elephunk" was released in 2003 featuring Fergie as its new female vocalist. "Monkey Business," its fourth album released in 2005 has sold over 295,000 copies in its first week is a certified Triple Platinum. Its single, "Don't Phunk with My Heart" has reached No. 3 in the US Billboard charts earning them their second Grammy.

The creativity and the energy the Black Eyed Peas bring to their music and performances makes them Pepsi' perfect partner for its music campaign in 2007.

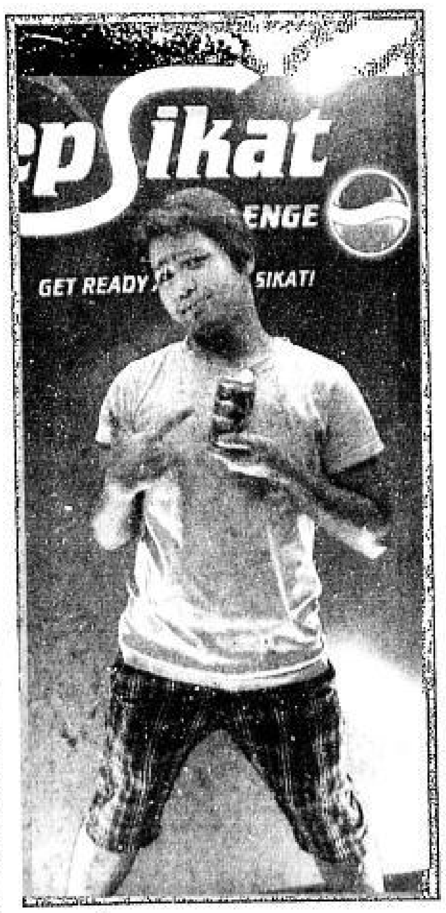
Now here's your chance to watch the "Black Eyed Peas" perform live in Bangkok on October 18, 2007 - for free!

Simply dance to one of the group's famous music holding a Pepsi can in PepSikat booths located in select Timezone outlets and have your dance video recorded. Using your personal camera, you may also choose to record your own videos and upload it to the Pepsi website, www.pepsiworld.com.ph.

Vote for your favorite video either via your Smart cell phone or through the Pepsi website and get the chance to win the same prizes. Or you may also visit KFC, Pizza Hut or 7-Eleven stores and add up to your opportunity to go to Bangkok!

Now's your chance to have that "15 seconds of fame," groove to the "Black Eyed Peas" song "More" and join the PepSikat Challenge! Keep drinking Pepsi and celebrate life's endless possibilities.

PepSik
CHALL



PepSikat
LLENGE
RE
SIKAT!

PepSikat
CHALLENGE

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PepSikat
CHALLENGE

RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

PEPSI
Sarap ng may pagpipilian
PEPSI
PEPSI

PROMO MECHANICS

Win tickets to watch The Black Eyed Peas live in Bangkok!

Here's how you can win:
1. Join the PepSikat Challenge. Visit the PepSikat Booth in selected Timezone outlets and create your own dance video.
2. Join via online. Record a 15-second dance routine video and upload it directly to www.pepsiworld.com.ph
3. A contestant must star ng a Pepsi can from his right side, hold it while dancing and end the routine with a pasa-move to the left.
4. Entries from the Pepsikat Booth and from the website will be posted in www.pepsiworld.com.ph so the public can view and vote for their favorite dance video either through text or online voting.
5. Text voting is open to all SMART and TNT users only.

To register text:
PEPSIKAT (space) REG name/age/gender/address and send to 2861

To vote type in:
PEPSIKAT (space) VOTE (space) Code of your favorite video and send to 2861

6. Online voters can cast their votes by simply visiting www.pepsiworld.com.ph/pepsikat
7. Winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to watch The Black Eyed Peas concert in Bangkok on October 18, 2007.
8. Text and online voters may also get the chance to win the challenge.
9. For more details about the promo, log onto www.pepsiworld.com.ph

Brought to you by Pepsi. Sarap ng may pagpipilian.

Fine Print:
Promo runs from August 17 till September 30, 2007.
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0980, Series of 2007.

PRIZES AND WINNERS

Grand prize is a ticket to watch the Black Eyed Peas concert in Bangkok, Thailand, and is inclusive of accommodations, pocket money, limited edition Black Eyed Peas T-shirt and plane fare exclusive of airport and travel taxes.

There will be ten (10) winners in all:

a. Three (3) People's Choice Awards winners - top 3 winners from votes via mobile phone and the Internet during the entire length of the promo (in case of tie, the voting period will be extended for 30 minutes. In case of another tie, Pepsico representatives will choose the winners based on the following criteria: Audience Impact-20%, Creativity-30%, Choreography-30%, Originality-20%)

b. Two (2) raffle winners from the Internet voters

c. Two (2) raffle winners from mobile phone voters

d. Three (3) Myx winners-the most creative videos out of 30 short-listed entries will be chosen based on the following criteria: Overall Impact-50%, Choreography-30%, Originality-20%.

Raffle draw among voters is on September 28, 2007.

Winners will be notified via calls and registered mail, and announced on radio ads, press releases and pepsiworld.com.ph

Winners can claim their prizes at participating Smart Wireless Centers or Proximity Philippines (11th Floor, Insular Life Building, Paseo de Roxas corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City). They must present the following:
- Two (2) valid identification cards (e.g. Driver's License, SSS, TIN, school or company ID, birth certificate)
- SIM card of winning cell phone number (for the mobile phone voters)
- Registered mail

Sikat
CHALLEN

GET READY AT MAGPASIKAT!

Check the following dates for booth schedules

August 22-26 Robinsons Metro East
August 24-26 Glorietta 2
Aug 31 - Sept 2 Trinoma
Aug 31 - Sept 2 Greenbelt 3
Sept 7-9 Ayala Center Cebu Main
Sept 7-9 Timezone Ayala Cebu
Sept 7-9 Market Market
Sept 14-16 Alabang Town Center
Sept 14-16 Greenbelt 3
Sept 14-16 MOA Classic
Sept 21-23 Gateway Cinemas
Sep. 21-23 [illegible]
Sept 21-23 Trinoma

OTHER WAYS TO WIN BEP TICKETS

Pizza Hut Mechanics

Buy any of the Cheesy Pops Pizza Fun Feast meals with Pepsi featuring the Black Eyed Peas, and text in the 6-digit alphanumeric code found on the scratch card. Register for FREE to make entries to qualify for the draw. PIZZAHUT REG <Name/Address/Age/Sex> and send to 2989.

Ex: PIZZAHUT REG Jolie Go/789 San Mateo St. Makati City/18/Female

Earn raffle entries by texting the 6-digit alphanumeric code using the keyword PIZZAHUT <promo code> and send to 2989

Ex: PIZZAHUT abc12[illegible]

P2.50/text (Globe/Smart), P2.00/text (Sun)

Participants earn scratch cards depending on the product purchased:
Meal for two – 1 scratch card
Meal for four – 2 scratch cards

There will be a total of nine lucky winners of the BEP concert tickets (trip for 2) on Oct. 18, 2007 for the 3 weekly draws. Claiming of prizes will be at the Azech Solution International Corp. at Unit 1607 Richville Corporate Tower, 1107 Alabang Zapote Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang City. For provincial winners, prizes can be claimed at the nearest Pizza Hut outlet.

Hotline number: 02-850-389[illegible]
Valid only for dine-in only. Promo runs Aug. 28 to Oct. [illegible], 2007.
Per DTI permit No. 1734 Series of 2007.

7 Eleven Mechanics

Buy any Gulp (22oz / 32oz) or Slurpee (22oz) and peel off the BEP promo sticker under the cup. Each drink is entitled to one (1) sticker. Find out instantly if you won! Winners of the Slurpee or Gulp 12 oz. or the Slurpee Gulp Cup may claim at cashier. Winners of the BEP concert tickets will also get free hotel accommodation and pocket money. They may claim their tickets at 7-Eleven Head Office at 7th Floor, The Columbia, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City. When claiming the tickets, winner must present valid ID, receipt as proof of purchase and the cup with the winning sticker.

Promo runs from Sept 8 - October 15, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR permit No. 8836 Series of [illegible]

KFC Mechanics

Buy a KFC Black Eyed Peas Bucket Meal and look for the promo code on the receipt.

Register for FREE to make entries to qualify for the draw. Text: KFC JOIN Name/Address/Age/Sex and send to 2989

Ex: KFC JOIN Margarita Garcia/1234 [illegible] Rd. [illegible]/25/Female

Earn raffle entries by texting the 9-digit promo code using the keyword KFC <promo code> and send to 2989.

Ex: KFC 1234abcde

P2.50/text (Globe/Smart), P2.50/text (Sun)

One (1) promo code will be given per transaction receipt.
1 bucket meal in one receipt = 1 promo code
2 bucket meals in one receipt = 2 promo codes

There will be (6) lucky winners of the BEP concert tickets (trip for 2) on October 18, 2007 for the [illegible] weekly draws of the contest. Prizes can be claimed at the Azech Solution International Corporation, Unit 1607 Richville Corporate Tower, 1107 Alabang Zapote Road, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. For provincial winners, prizes can be claimed at the nearest KFC outlet.

Hotline number: (02) 8503895
Promo runs August 20 to September 30, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 200[illegible]

PEPSI
Sarap ng may pagpipilian
PEPSI

Win tickets to watch The Black Eyed Peas live in Bangkok!

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Brought to you by Pepsi. Sarap ng may pagpipilian.

Fine Print:

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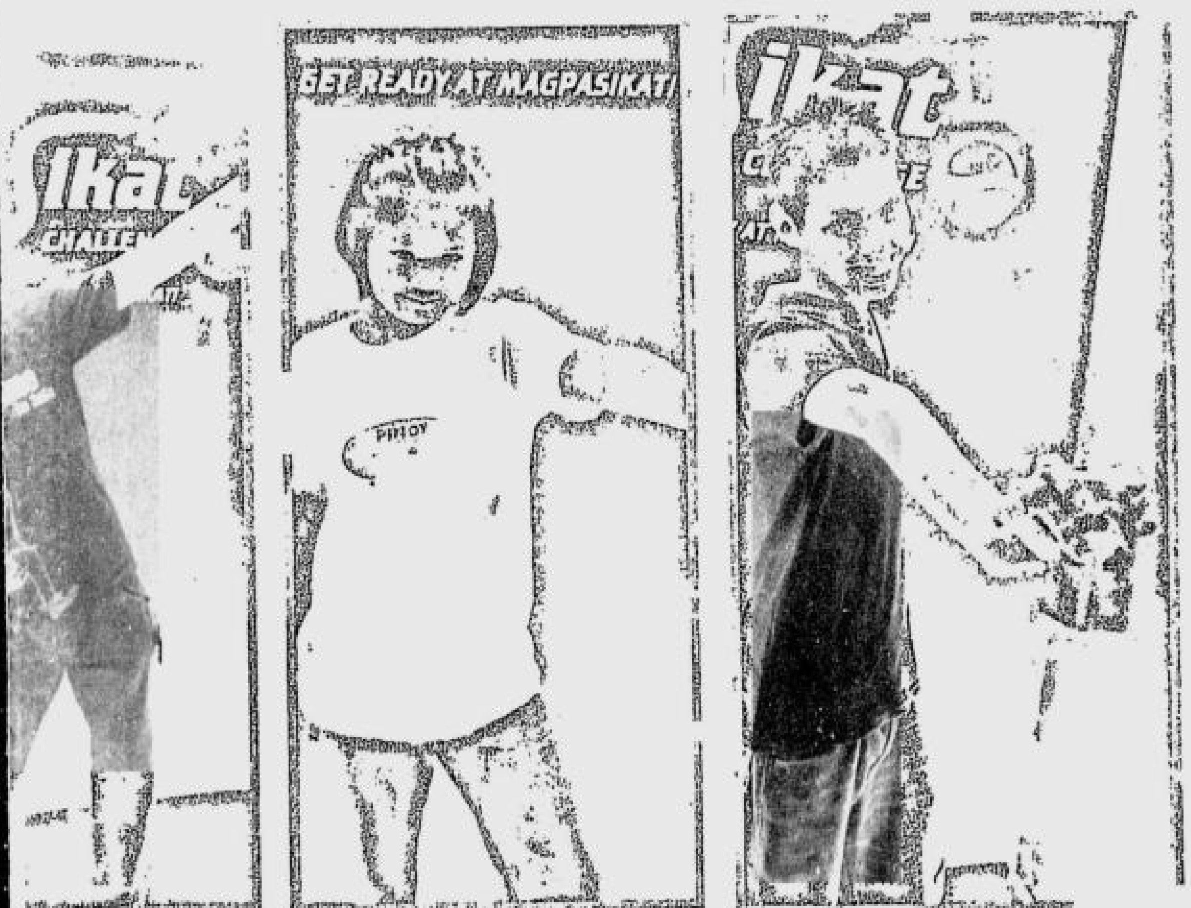
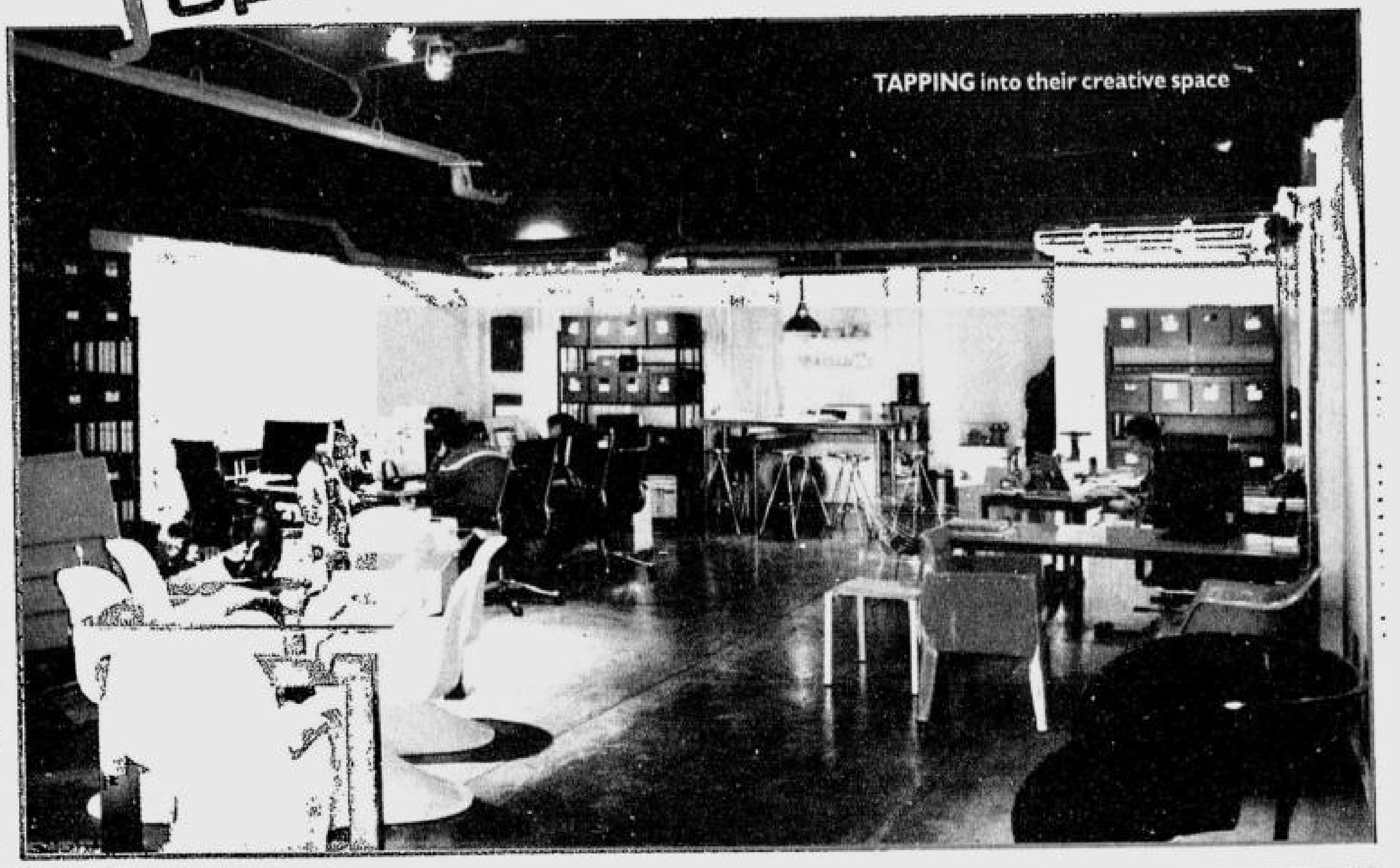


RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

I HATE
overtime!!!


TAPPING into their creative space

From page D1

The fun factory

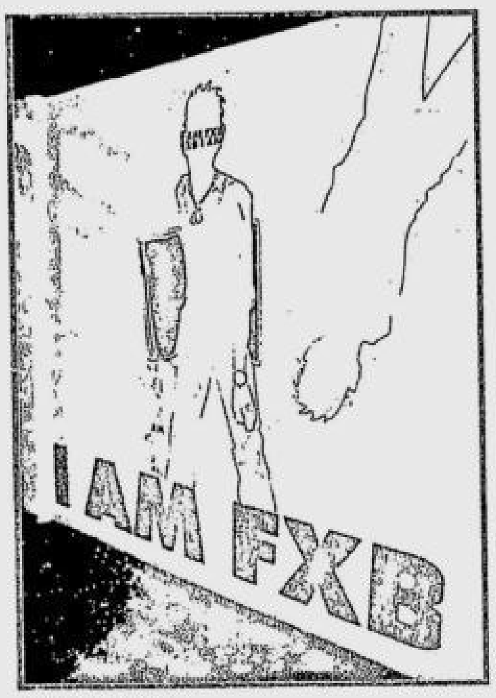
the next passerby; that steel table is where the formal meetings are conducted; where the team of Futura Extra Bold Design sit and talk shop with all their clients.

"I just basically wanted it to look like a Soho loft or a Soho studio," Lorraine Menez-Obusan, the creative director, shares with me. "When this was under construction, I was in New York," she adds, probably as an explanation to the really funky office the designers of FXB Design call ... well, their office. Marked by a huge open space, there is no feeling of artists drowning in a sanitized and drab cubicle with white lighting. I mention white lighting as Lorraine detests it. It's just not her thing. What is her thing is the color orange which, along with black, defines the main color scheme of their office, located at the third floor of the Sekai Center in Ortigas Avenue, just across Ash Creek Center, the hang out and Starbucks source for the kids of YCA and Xavier.

Into the den of design

Stepping through the large glass doors, the first thing you see is an old fashion gas pump, a floating screen with what might be ceramic hands in different positions right at the floor below. "We got that from Vintage Pop in Marikina Shoe Expo," Lorraine points at the gas pump. "We use that as a storage for our DVDs and our Xbox games," she finishes. Xbox games? "We have our own corner there where when we don't have any ideas at the moment you can play X-Box," she adds. Jomar Antonio, one of FXB's designers, who Lorraine calls "the techie-guy," smiles. Later, I am to discover, that the games, be it Xbox or PS3, is more his domain.

The FXB Design office is a testament to the creative energy and spirit of the team that comprises this award winning group of artists. With an impressive client list that includes Fully Booked, Rustan's, Essenses, the Big Chill and other very familiar brands, the team is in charge of a company or a business' identity. For Fully Booked, they came up with the name and logo and incorporated these into the employee's IDs, plastic and paper bags posters and other materials. Working closely with the Linea Italia group, Lorraine Menez-Obusan and partner Katrina Tolentino have produced the company's print ads to amazed on-lookers. For Hutu's Hut, team FXB designed a logo which was later used as the main concept for their menus, tent cards and signage system. When asked what it is exactly that they design, Lorraine laughs after she says "Boring stuff." She quickly follows up by saying, "No, [we do] graphic design. Our strength is when you are starting a business and then we develop the logos, the store, the packaging and the environmental graphics and then we create a pretty strong brand."

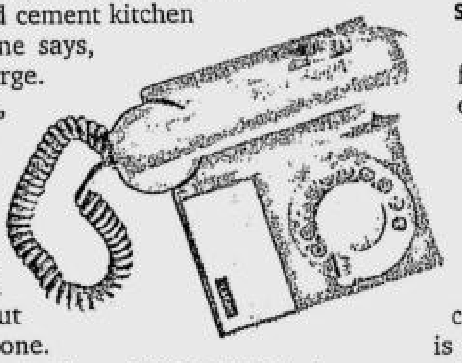


AND you are?

WOW! *Daming* books!

To play while working

Such a creative group, it seems, needs a space with which to exercise their creativity. It also follows that there is a certain kind of artistic madness that follows. Joined by senior designer Sher Olan De Castro and production manager Anna Olan, we laugh as we discuss how the fun and off beat office environment contributes also to a less serious approach to work. Sher calls Fridays "Friday madness" as everyone is more inclined to turn up the volume of the speakers and the girls suffer from Jomar's taste of music which includes what the others call "bad '80s music like Menudo." While the steel table is the formal table where they meet clients, they prefer the unpainted cement kitchen table, which Lorraine says, "where we all converge. This is where we eat, this is where we draw ..." Each one have their own favorite chair, with Sher's being the rocking chair and Jomar pointing out the egg shaped one. They even dare me to sit on it to test how comfortable it is.


HELLO? FXB designs ...

But it's not an easy job to constantly have to be creative all the time. Jomar turns to video games to recharge and to free the mind. Lorraine runs to comic books, Sher to websites like coolhunter.com and Anna leans towards anime and manga. "We recharge once a year," Lorraine expounds. "We go out of the country together. We went to Hong Kong two years ago," she adds. The trips abroad help revitalize lost creative energy and gives the artists more material to work with when they return.

Surfing the net, reading comic books, and playing Xbox games are things they are allowed to do to deal with creative hurdles. When they are working, they are thinking out of the box and creating arresting visuals for their clients. It doesn't really sound like work at all, come to think of it. "Deadlines make it feel like work," Lorraine defends but she has to admit, that's just about it.

Where free spirits work

With its open space, a free and relaxed working environment and playful approach to office decorations, it seems like FXB Design is a haven for the creative spirit who needs to work in the world of the 9 to 5 with as little discomfort as possible. "Design is art. If you look at it, you might find it nice or beautiful but maybe to her, it's not. It's really subjective," Lorraine explains, defending a way of working where the lines between business and pleasure are blurred and the artist can find the middle ground between the corporate and free spirited. Like a beckoning call to play and get paid for it, Lorraine announces that they are open to hiring more graphic designers to fill out the team. For the artist who refuses to compromise and work in a stuffy, claustrophobic cubicle, there is a place where you can have your cake and eat it too, as long as you can stand listening to Menudo every Friday.

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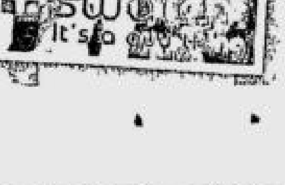
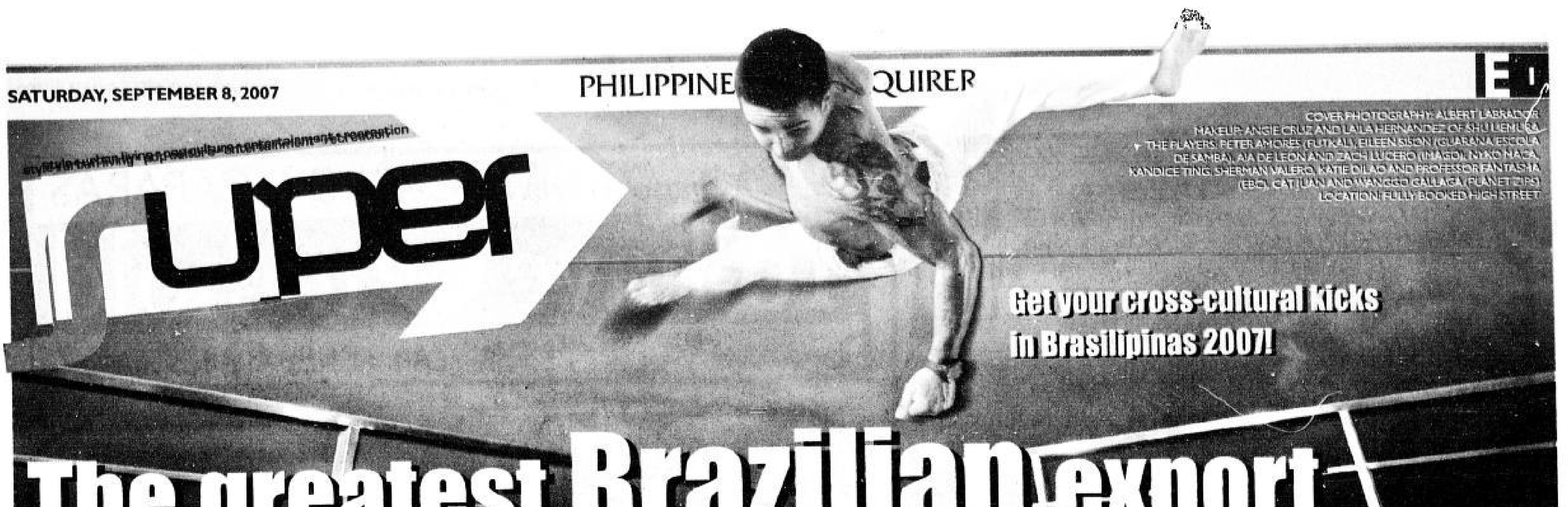




COVER PHOTOGRAPHY: ALBERT LABRADOR
MAKEUP: ANGIE CRUZ AND LAILA HERNANDEZ OF SHU UEMURA
THE PLAYERS: PETER AMORES (FUTKAL), EILEEN SISON (GUARANA/ESCOLA DE SAMBA), AIA DE LEON AND ZACH LUCERO (IMAGO), NYKO MACA, KANDICE TING, SHERMAN VALERO, KATIE DILAO AND PROFESSOR FANTASMA (EBC), CAT JUAN AND WANGGO GALLAGA (PLANET ZIPS)
LOCATION: FULLY BOOKED HIGH STREET

Get your cross-cultural kicks in Brasilipinas 2007!

The greatest Brazilian export

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

INVASIONS, BY NATURE, are defined by a degree of resistance to its cause. And so I wouldn't call Brazil's entry into the Pinoy pop cultural consciousness as an invasion, as many a headline and magazine editorial had announced, prompting a momentary vision of green and yellow men resembling Ronaldinho jumping out of UFOs. No, it was more of a slow, but steady assimilation. And it all began with the feet.

2.2 billion slippers to be specific, which is how many pairs of Havaianas have been sold to date—if laid end to end, they'd circle the world fifty times! Now if we could take a moment to examine this ubiquitous export, we could extract a character DNA that is stereotypically Brazilian: happily unpretentious and down-to-earth (it's a pair of *tsinelas* for God's sake), unabashedly playful, a half-naked, instant step into to that beachy state of mind, a bursting crayola box of fun.

Fun. Now there's a word that we can all relate to as inhabitants of planet Earth. Yet in spite of its undisputed value, it remains generally unranked in the hierarchy of living well, hardly mentioned as an end-goal of a working life less ordinary, compared to the usual suspects of fortune and fame. This is where, I believe, Brazil comes in as a reminder to the rest of the world about the importance of living beyond existence, of living in the now.

Fun—it's Brazil's biggest import. It's what them Brazilians have got to offer as a secret to life that's older than Cristo Redentor, tenets on living that sound more like a party invitation: Let go. Dance. Sing. Love. Laugh. Play. *Have fun.*

The Art in Party

It all seems too simple, really, but then who said the formula for happiness had to be complicated? And perhaps that's why their culture is so infectious. They've taken fun to another level—an exuberant, guiltless, hyperkinetic level fueled by a passion and patriotism that borders on insanity. Just watch the futbol fans during the World Cup, or be on the streets during Carnaval, heck just watch Fatboy Slim chanting "I really love this city" in his Rio jaunt, it's almost impossible not to turn a little envious, like a wallflower in a party wanting to join the cool kids going wild on the dance floor. It's almost unfair, you think, that Brazilians control the global cartel of fun.

BRASILIPINAS
ESCOLA BRASILEIRA DE CAPOEIRA

When I finally did visit that massive South American land a few years back on a two month backpacking jaunt, I felt that vibe first hand, as I was welcomed by kindred souls from city to beach, be they skimpily-clad and perfectly tanned Cariocas on Ipanema, to *maconha*-smoking street ragamuffins in Floripa, to wave-worshipping surfers in Praia Mole.

Yes, there was poverty, I saw those favelas peering at me from the mountains in Rio de Janeiro like hungry eyes. Yes, there was crime, I saw a woman robbed in broad daylight in Salvador. Perhaps this is what makes their culture even more appealing: they are far from First World perfect, and just like us they are dealing with the problems of poverty, violence and a huge class divide. Yet there are sacred moments when they would forget all—make even *you* forget that you're technically on alien soil, when it's time to party.

Where three people are gathered, there'd be a party. Find a few sticks and something to bang on, there'd be music. Gather a whole city with something to bang on, there'd be Carnaval. The unabashed quality of it all was so genuine it almost felt unreal.

What felt even more unreal was that my quirky, longtime culture crush had suddenly hit the Filipino mainstream. I mean, nobody even knew what a Brazilian wax was a decade ago! Today, it's everywhere (the Brazilian influence I mean, not the wax), from footwear to bossa nova-fied cover tunes, to restaurants, bars and event themes and even to er... corned beef. (Samba!)

Brasilipinas 2007

Now for the cross-cultural group hug that is Brasilipinas 2007. It's a month-long celebration of the culture, the arts, the music and the sports inspired by Brazil. It is the first of its kind as it brings together several dynamic young groups in the country, shining in their respective arts of expression, which through the years had formed a real community of performers with a shared spirit of freedom and admiration of the Brazilian culture. Expect a street party composed of capoeiristas, samba dancers, futkalistas, fire zippers, musicians and percussionists. Call it a mini Carnaval in Manila.

It is spearheaded by Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Filipinas, or EBC Philippines, the first and only accredited school of the Brazilian martial art capoeira. Applying its similar blueprint of fusion—it's a martial art that combines fighting skill, music and dance—the school has brought together a unique community fusing music, dance and sport.

Bringing the groups together was kismet, but not totally unexpected. It was an organic growth since the groups naturally found themselves alongside each other in the performance space, onstage and in parties together, from city to beach. The kaleidoscopic lineup: EBC Philippines, Escola de Samba, Brigada, Planet Zips, Eileen Sison of Guarana, Nyko Maca, Futkal, Imago, and so much more.

Global group hug

A nagging thought: is it strange to be passionately promoting another culture when we should be more focused on uplifting our own? I mean, did it have to take a Brazilian slipper to put the Filipino flag on their flipflops for us to adopt it as everyday wear?

Nyko Maca, a favorite in the local band scene for her quirky, original ear candy she touts "sambatronica," has this to offer about her own Brazilophilia: "Most people feel an affinity for Brasil because of an indescribable yet tangible sense of happiness which has universal appeal. You can easily identify with a people who have a flair for bringing a certain energy to any activity they touch, and theirs has also been a culture of assimilation." Think about it—football began in England, samba traces its roots from African rhythms, and Jiujitsu is a Japanese sport. Brazil not just embraced these imports but revolutionized them and assimilated it into their own culture.

In a world that's more of a global village today, it's but natural to get healthy culture crushes, or appropriate certain aspects into one's own consciousness and lifestyle. As what author Alain de Botton wrote in "The Art of Travel," "We have all, without choosing, been scattered at birth by the wind on to a country, but, like Flaubert, we are in adulthood granted the freedom imaginatively to recreate our identity in line with our allegiances."

And since I pledge my allegiance to the global party, I say let the group hug begin, and let's get this party started. I have a pretty good feeling it's gonna be fun.

Brasilipinas 2007 is supported by Motorola, Havaianas, Puma, Bacchus, Fully

RAZR's Edge. Capoeiristas ready for killer Moto moves

City of gods

By Nykó Macá

IN THE GROWING LEAGUE OF FANS of all things Brazilian, it's natural to be inclined to admire them in a manner of ways. Be it their flair for sport, their musicality, their poetic language, and even their breathtaking geography, there's an authentic taste for what comes from that part of the world.

The recent imports in fact mimic our own popular export—overseas foreign workers of the nomadic kind! Pinoys conquer soils away from home, bringing valuable human resources to bear upon developing nations' economies. This gives rise to the urban legend that should we all declare a nonworking holiday the world over, most business would come to a screeching halt - no nannies to watch over kids, or no cooks to cater to presidents in the White House.

Recently, a welcome reversal to the people exporting trend is a slew of attractively packaged foreigners from São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, and Rio de Janeiro, to be specific. Their explosion in the local fashion scene has us reeling—both over a provocative new demographic to our current local pool, and their headturning good looks.

Designer Genes

"As far as I'm concerned, we need their faces" states Jonas Gaffud of Mercator Models. His agency is in fact composed of a majority of Filipino talents in both ramp, video, and print, and points out, "I don't look at it as a competition between the local and international (models) as they do have different markets."

Thiago Santos, who comes from the state capital of Minas Gerais in the gem-rich state Belo Horizonte, credits the multi-cultural melting pot as the secret behind a successful genetic recipe. "Not to be stuck-up or anything, but in Brazil you have a mix of races that makes for a *'povo bonito'* (beautiful people). We have brown, black, white, and everything in between." Science says that the wider the variation in the gene pool, the stronger the offspring become, and we propose an amendment where the evolutionary theory should also include attractive features filtering down from generation to generation. Most of the time, the underlying assumption for what makes something attractive to the eye is symmetry and proportion, which are a function of healthy helixes.

Their past is undoubtedly more than colorful—the native Indian population colonized by Portuguese settlers who imported Africans for slave labor makes for a rich melting pot indeed. This was further enhanced by immigrating Japanese, Germans, Italians, and Dutch.

Interestingly enough, though there is a mentality that often associates lighter skin color with a certain social status, Nagae Ono, who hails from São Paulo and is half-Japanese, points out, "in Brazil you have a more varied standard of beauty. It's not just because you're fair-skinned that you are pretty or handsome. You can be dark-skinned and be seen as very attractive; we have so many more factors that we consider. It's not that narrow; there is more to what is thought of as beautiful." He goes on to tracking the trend—"it started a few years ago in Europe and the United States, where people like Gisele Bundchen made a name for Brazil. Then suddenly people began to pay attention, and the wave spread."

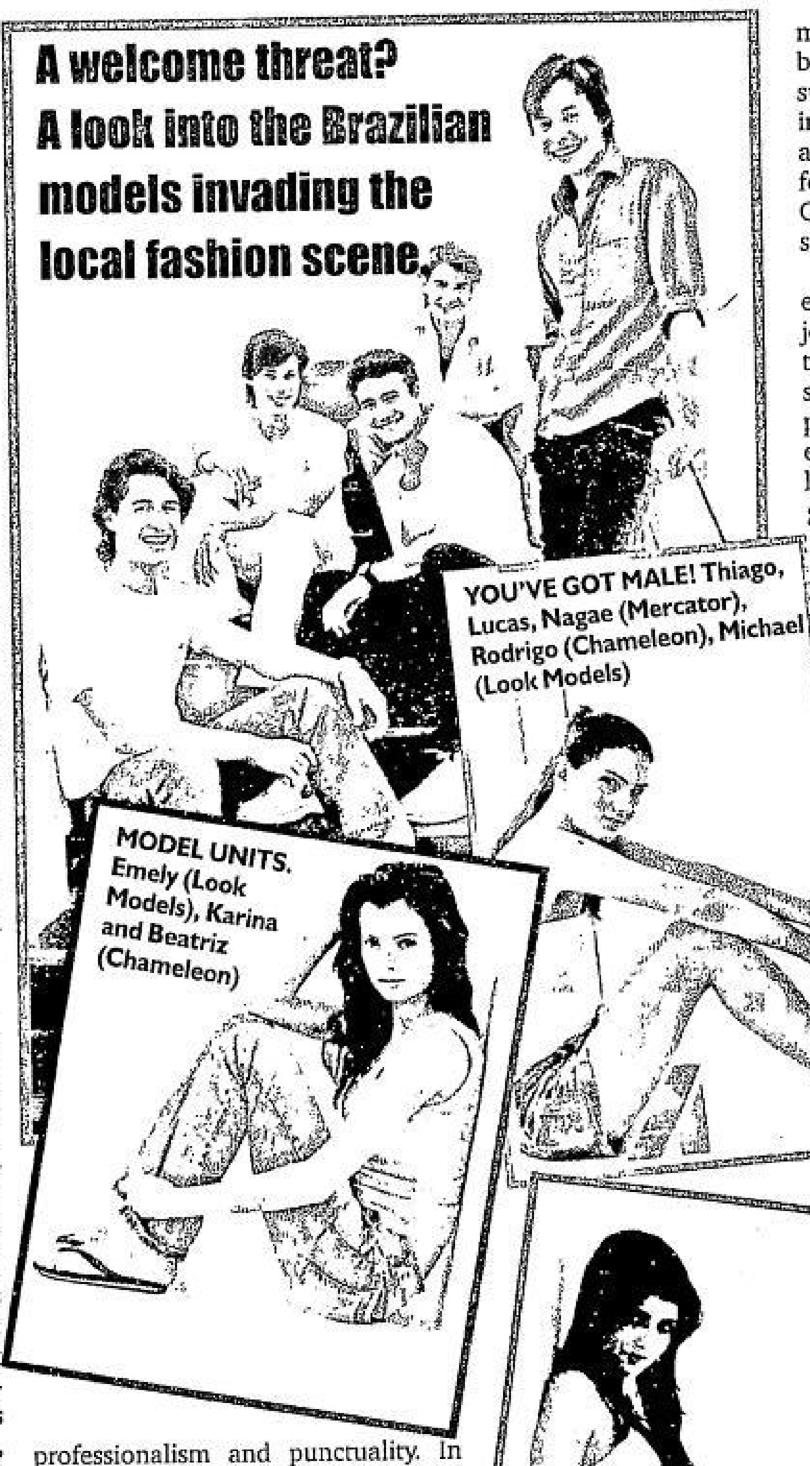
Workaholics Inc.

"It's true," Lucas Gil, declared Mr. World in China recently, "[that as models] we live a privileged life. Mine did a complete turnaround since I left Brazil. But it's not necessarily easy by any means." A former nutritionist who clocks in up to five hours a day of martial arts training recounts his regiment with distinct pleasure—muay thai, boxing, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and then some. Obviously, being the center of attention is not all lights and camera—the action is more complicated than it looks. Models have to keep a constant watch over their lifestyle, habits, and activities in order to succeed at their craft. This takes a lot of work, dedication, and sacrifice, which unbeknownst to many, is a tall order on what is made out to be a glamorous job. Faith Amigo of Look Models, and owner of Brazilian Bare explains, "Brazilians dominate because it's their own doing. The product is really the model. It's not that we're lacking good-looking people [here in the Philippines], but perhaps the discipline."

Jenni Epperson, fashion editor and renowned stylist who's worked with a lot of models for both local and international print ads and commercials, shares "what I like about Brazilians and other foreign models, called 'fly-ins' in the industry, is the sense of professionalism and punctuality. In high fashion shoots, you don't have to spoon feed them. They know how to pose, know what to show—say, if it's a bag they're modeling, they know how to show the bag. When the model works well, it makes the job easier for everyone involved in the production. Many times in Manila, people think it's the art director or photographer's job to coach the model on how to pose. What I'd like to see developed among local models is better posing, and being more 'clued in' with modeling itself." Jenni believes that Pinoy models can attain global success with the right work ethic, enumerating top Filipina models whom she believes are "world class, or even better than a lot of foreign models, the likes of Ria Bolivar, Grace Tagle, Joan Bitagcol, and Rissa Samson."

On the supply and demand perspective it's easy to see why they are netting quite a few jobs nowadays. "It's an economic issue more than a political one," attests Faith, "clients are specific. They want a fresh face and different personalities; the local market is a bit saturated. I really commend these you people who leave their families and where they're from to go after a career."

A welcome threat? A look into the Brazilian models invading the local fashion scene.



YOU'VE GOT MALE! Thiago, Lucas, Nagae (Mercator), Rodrigo (Chameleon), Michael (Look Models)

MODEL UNITS. Emely (Look Models), Karina and Beatriz (Chameleon)

Behind the faces

For the agencies, caring for their talents also becomes a priority in order to ensure their performance. Since they do end up coming from far away, fly-ins require a certain amount of investment on their part. JL Domino of Chameleon explains "I try to be friends with my models, so they feel comfortable working with me." As for Brazil, relative to other countries, the costs can be sizable. "You cover all travel for your talents. You have to look after all their needs while they're here, and try to recoup your investments through projects they do in the meantime. Overall, we do all right, but there really are times when we end up negative," demonstrating that it's not a fast-cash scheme at all. She will even go so far as to help those challenged by the English language to take lessons. "It can take more than a year sometimes to collect on your investment," she adds.

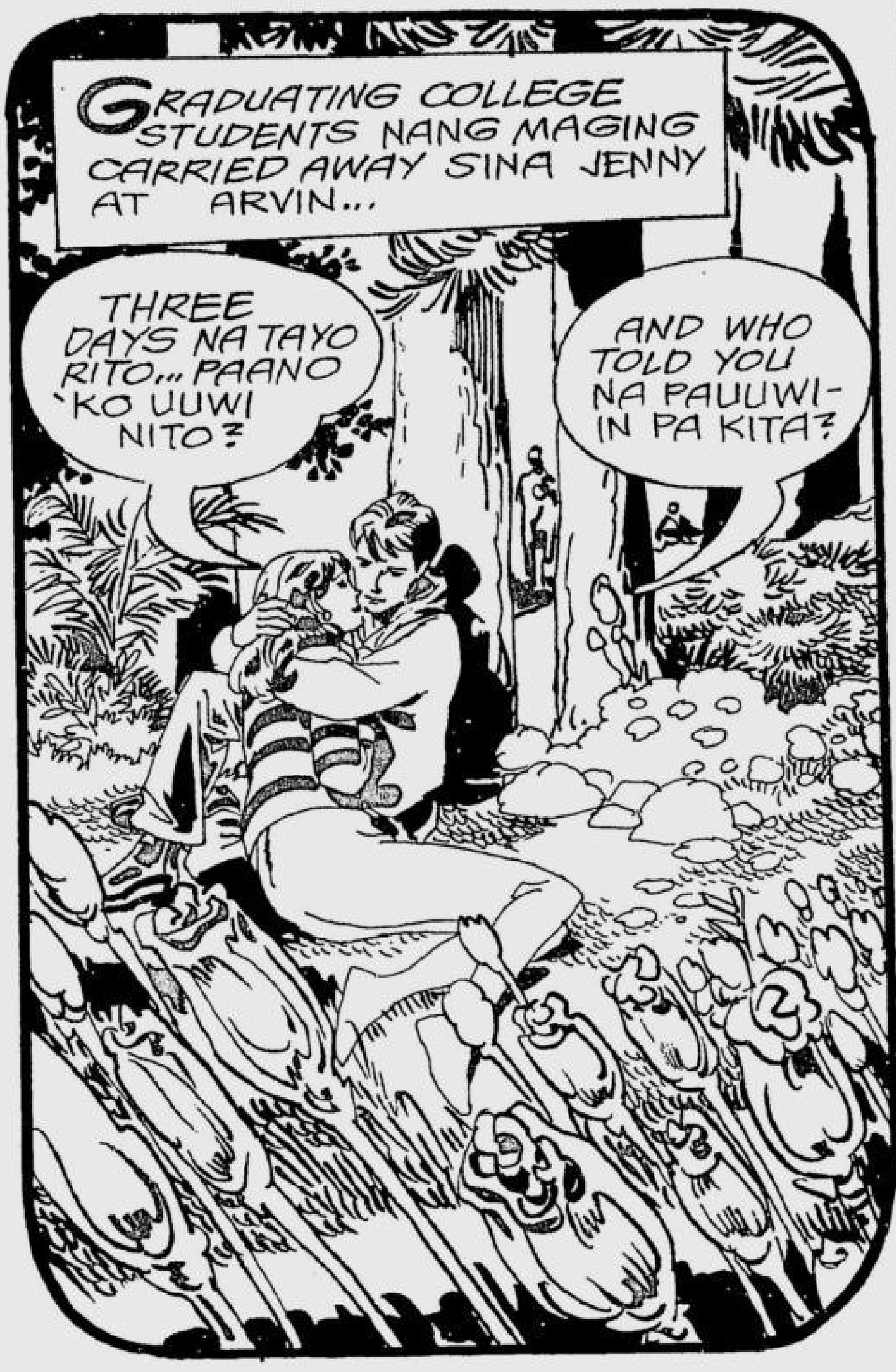
Jonas also elaborates on modeling as a commitment, saying "I'm not undermining the Filipino models [at all], however those who want to have a career in modeling should take it seriously and equip themselves with training and continuous self-development." It's a matter of keeping your eyes on the prize and knowing that though there is more "output than input at the beginning," according to Faith, "the word will spread and the work pays off."

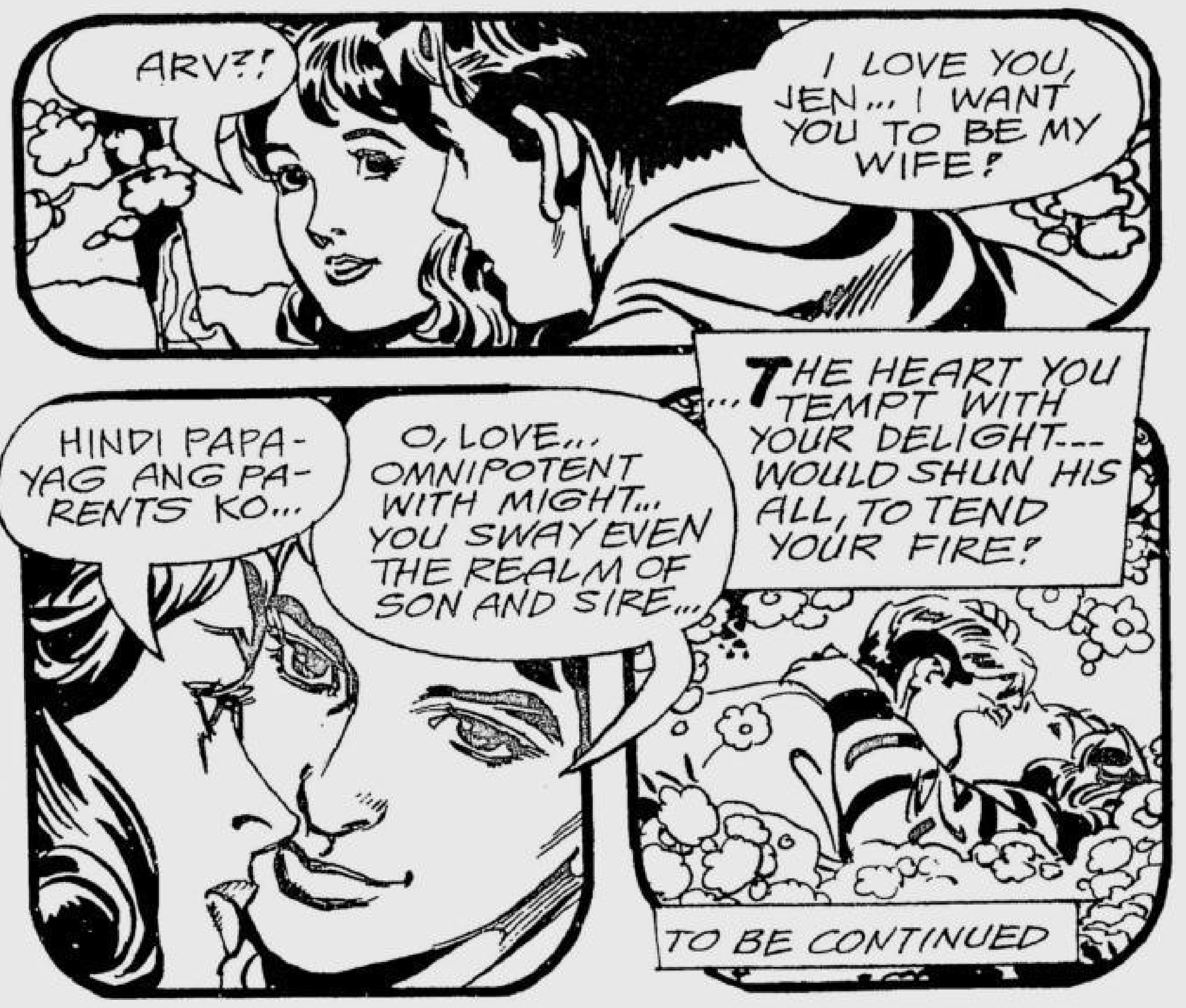
As with all paths to the top, the steep climb will always be rewarded one way or another. Whether that trek is over the metaphorical mountain of cross-cultural bridging or a literal flight over a few oceans, these imports are blazing a new trail all their own not only in the Philippines but also elsewhere. These Brazilians are baring it, and our response is—*bemvindo*.

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

To have and to hold

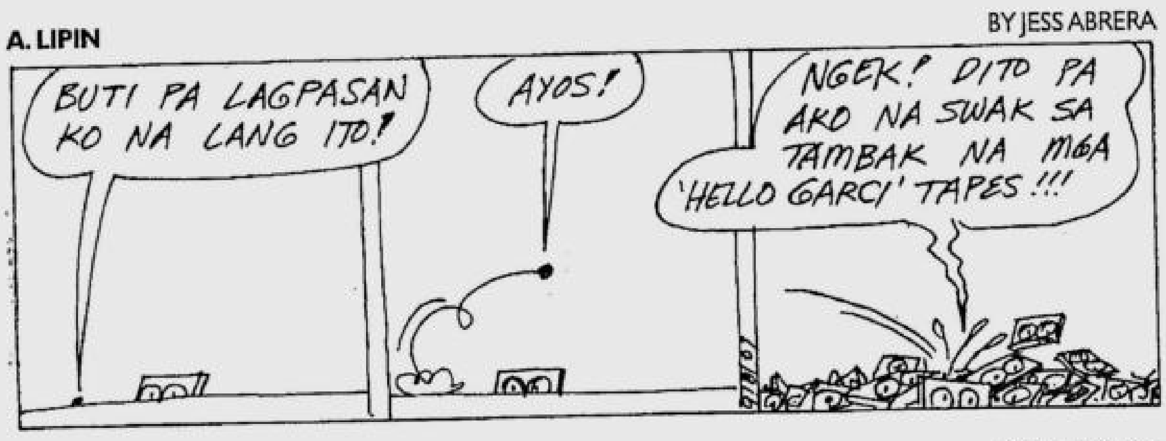
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


GRADUATING COLLEGE STUDENTS NANG MAGING CARRIED AWAY SINA JENNY AT ARVIN...
THREE DAYS NA TAYO RITO... PAANO 'KO UUWI NITO?
AND WHO TOLD YOU NA PAUUWI-IN PA KITA?


ARV?!
I LOVE YOU, JEN... I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE!
HINDI PAPAYAG ANG PARENTS KO...
O, LOVE... OMNIPOTENT WITH MIGHT... YOU SWAY EVEN THE REALM OF SON AND SIRE...
...THE HEART YOU TEMPT WITH YOUR DELIGHT--- WOULD SHUN HIS ALL, TO TEND YOUR FIRE!
TO BE CONTINUED

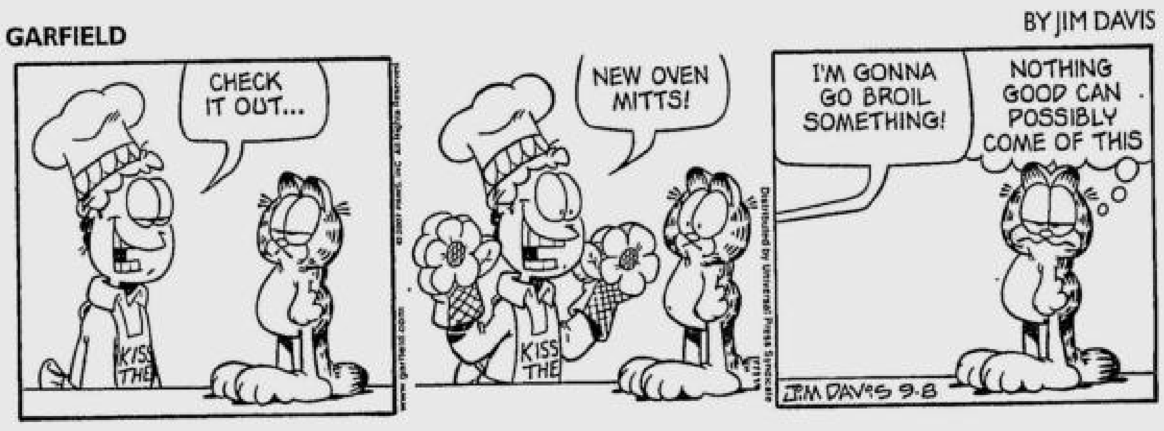
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BUTI PA LAGPASAN KO NA LANG ITO!
AYOS!
NGEK! DITO PA AKO NA SWAK SA TAMBAK NA MGA 'HELLO GARCI' TAPES!!!

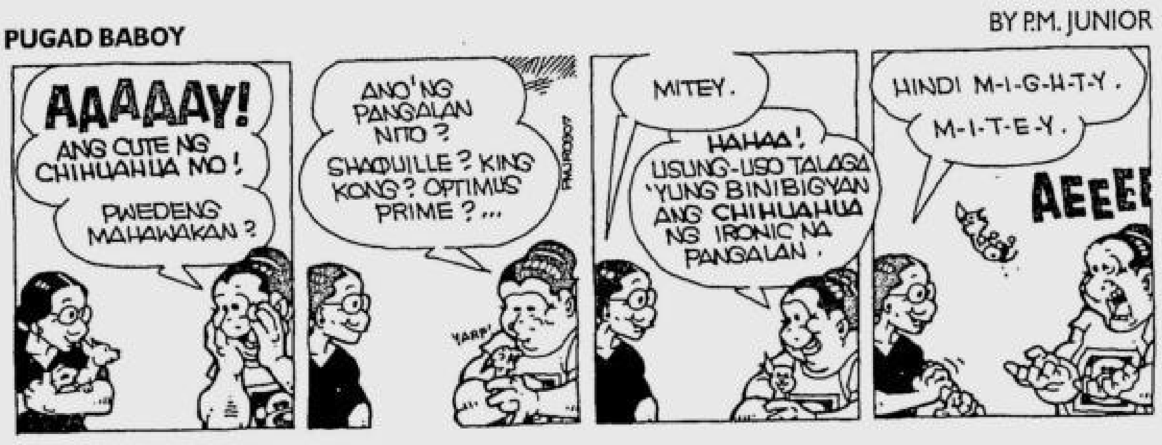
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


CHECK IT OUT...
KISS THE
NEW OVEN MITTS!
I'M GONNA GO BROIL SOMETHING!
NOTHING GOOD CAN POSSIBLY COME OF THIS
JIM DAVIS 9-8

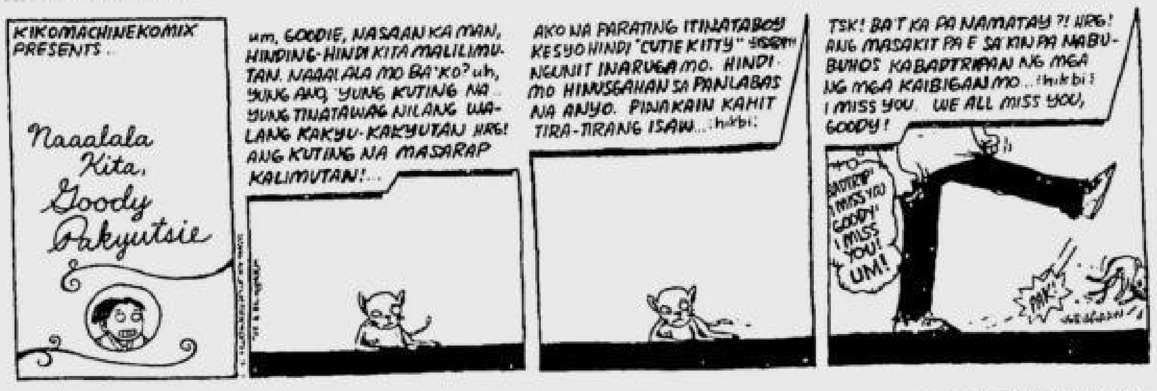
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


AAAAAY! ANG CUTE NG CHIHUAHUA MO!
PWEDENG MAHAWAKAN?
ANO'NG PANGALAN NITO?
SHAQUILLE? KING KONG? OPTIMUS PRIME?...
YARP!
MITEY.
HAHAA! USUNG-USO TALAGA 'YUNG BINIBIGYAN ANG CHIHUAHUA NG IRONIC NA PANGALAN.
HINDI M-I-G-H-T-Y.
M-I-T-E-Y.
AEEEE

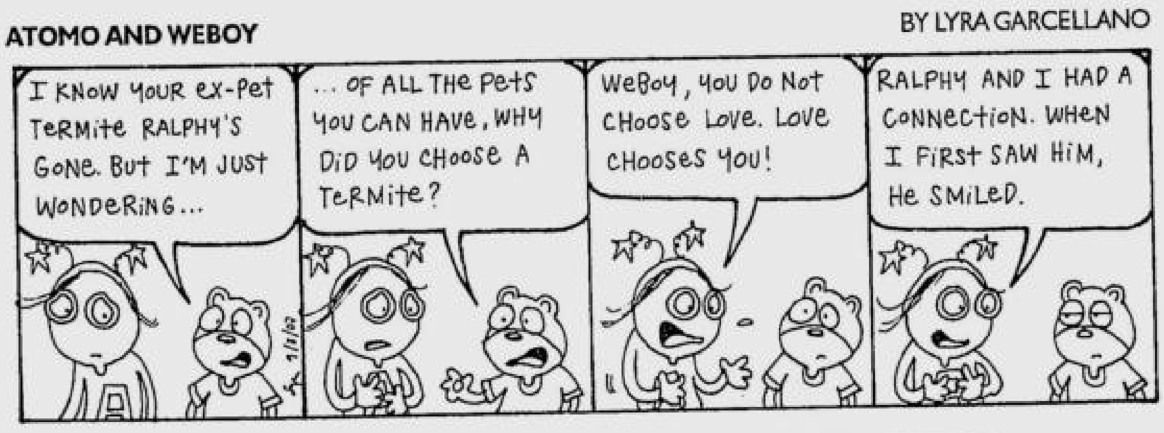
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

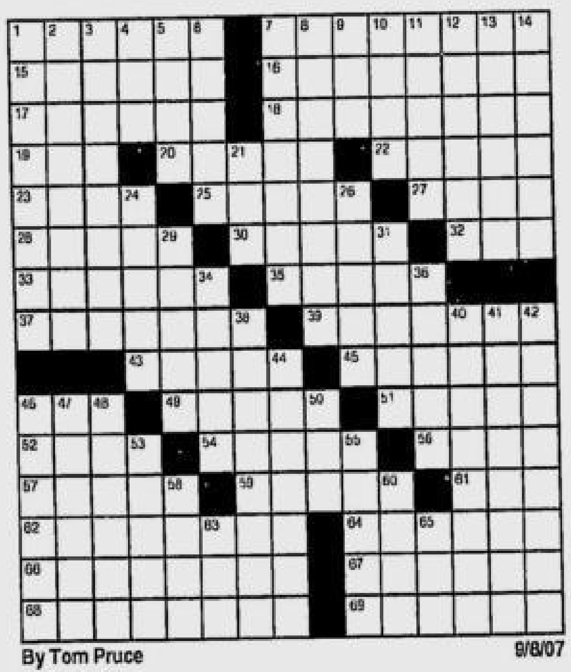

KIKOMACHINEKOMIX PRESENTS...
Naaalala Kita, Goody Pakyutsie
um, GOODIE, NASAAN KA MAN, HINDING-HINDI KITA MALILIMUTAN. NAAALALA MO BA'KO? uh, 'YUNG AKO, 'YUNG KUTING NA... 'YUNG TINATAWAG NILANG WALANG KAKYU-KAKYUTAN HRG! ANG KUTING NA MASARAP KALIMUTAN!...
AKO NA PARATING ITINATABOY KESYO HINDI "CUTIE KITTY" ..... NGUNIT INARUGA MO. HINDI MO HINUSGAHAN SA PANLABAS NA ANYO. PINAKAIN KAHIT TIRA-TIRANG ISAW... :hikbi:
TSK! BA'T KA PA NAMATAY?! HRG! ANG MASAKIT PA E SA'KIN PA NABUBUHOS KABADTRIPAN NG MGA NG MGA KAIBIGAN MO... :hikbi: I MISS YOU. WE ALL MISS YOU, GOODY!
I MISS YOU GOODY! I MISS YOU! UM!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I KNOW YOUR EX-PET TERMITE RALPHY'S GONE. BUT I'M JUST WONDERING...
... OF ALL THE PETS YOU CAN HAVE, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TERMITE?
WEBOY, YOU DO NOT CHOOSE LOVE. LOVE CHOOSES YOU!
RALPHY AND I HAD A CONNECTION. WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM, HE SMILED.

DAILY CROSSWORD


By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
9/8/07

ACROSS
1 Scamp
7 Indian spice
15 Serengeti bounder
16 Hooked, as a nose
17 Red gem
18 J.R.'s wife on "Dallas"
19 In position
20 Mojave flora
22 Substantial
23 Marine predator
25 Homeless children
27 Roof material
28 Praises
30 Implore
32 Building wing
33 White herons
35 Made a mistake
37 "Magnum P.I." star
39 Strengthened
43 McGregor and Stewart
45 Long step
46 Top pitcher
49 Look scornfully
51 Grasslike plant
52 Strap
54 Cancun mister
56 Maintain
57 Remove stitches
59 Man in a whale
61 Part of BYOB
62 Dumber
64 Materialistic urbanite
66 Bernhardt's rival Duse
67 Female beast
68 Orders fresh supplies
69 Ownerless

DOWN
1 Deep-fried pastries
2 Strength of an electrical current
3 Stylish ringlet
4 Is able
5 Guinness of "Star Wars"
6 Susan Dey TV series
7 Region of Spain
8 Underground layers of water
9 Parisian street
10 Passes away
11 Portion out
12 "My Boy Lollipop" singer Small
13 American dramatist
14 Founder of genetics
21 Mushroom morsel
24 Fred Astaire's sister
26 Bombay wraps
29 Slumgullion and goulash
31 Small depressions
34 Reads a bar code
36 Beautiful Bo
38 Automatic
40 Agape
41 Sidelong
42 Profundity
44 Pampas homemakers
46 Mistreater
47 Saddle part
48 Follows
50 Director Howard
53 Military supply station
55 Synthetic fabric
58 Boozer
60 "Les Miserables" author
63 Wyatt's ally
65 PGA member

Friday's Puzzle Solved

U	R	S	U	L	A	■	M	O	L	L	■	C	H	I
S	O	N	N	E	T	■	O	B	I	E	■	H	E	N
S	T	O	P	W	H	I	N	I	N	G	■	E	L	S
■	■	■	E	D	E	M	A	■	D	I	M	W	I	T
K	I	N	G	■	N	A	R	Y	■	T	O	Q	U	E
U	N	O	■	L	A	N	C	E	T	■	R	U	M	P
D	O	W	S	E	■	■	H	A	W	A	I	I	■	■
U	N	C	I	V	I	L	■	R	O	U	T	E	R	S
■	■	U	N	I	V	A	C	■	■	L	A	T	H	E
A	N	T	I	■	S	U	R	G	E	D	■	L	E	T
R	A	I	S	E	■	D	E	R	N	■	A	Y	E	S
A	T	T	E	N	D	■	A	U	D	I	O	■	■	■
B	I	O	■	D	O	N	T	B	E	F	R	E	S	H
I	O	U	■	E	P	E	E	■	A	S	T	U	T	E
A	N	T	■	D	E	E	D	■	R	O	A	R	E	R

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9/6/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You easily suggest unusual ideas or original points of view. You have a serious side; however, you appear bright and friendly to others. You can be successful in business because you have a shrewd financial sense about things. You're meticulous about details and excellent at analyzing anything. This year ahead might be one of the best years of your life. Dream big!

Birthdate of: Pink, singer; David Arquette, actor; Aimee Mann, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You feel genuine concern for a sibling or relative today. If you can talk to this person, do what you can. Your input could make a big difference.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You want to spend money on beautiful things today. However, you also feel very charitable. Donate or give away money to help others if you can.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel quite selfless today. You might help relatives and friends, or you might help perfect strangers.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're prepared to make sacrifices for others today. Those of you who work with the government or large institutions will see an opportunity to be kind and helpful.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You can join forces with others on behalf of something that benefits those who are needy. You want to work with others to make improvements somewhere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your ambition is strong now. However, you won't let it override your concern for someone else. You have feelings of sympathy for someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It occurs to you that if you get specific training, you can be more beneficial, somehow, in the world. This might be CPR training or something like that.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Some of you will have an opportunity to raise funds or collect something for charity. You're looking for ways to use the wealth of others to help those who are less fortunate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a good day to sit down with partners, spouses and close friends. If you have differences, you now seek solutions that are fair to both parties.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be on the lookout for a co-worker or possibly a customer who needs your help today. You likely will be in a position to do something. Consider this an opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Any kind of arts and crafts, creative activities or working with children will please you today. You feel inspired to do something that goes beyond just your own needs and your own world.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You find it easy to put the needs of others before your own today, especially the needs of family members and loved ones. You're a sensitive sign. Today you can show someone that you care.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	3				5	4		
2				1		6		
		9			7			
	5		3				4	
	7			4			5	
	6				9		1	
			2			9		
		7		8				3
		4	9				8	

Difficulty Level ★★★★
9/08

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Answer to previous puzzle

6	7	3	9	8	1	5	4	2
4	8	5	3	6	2	1	7	9
1	9	2	5	4	7	8	6	3
2	6	9	1	3	5	4	8	7
8	3	1	6	7	4	9	2	5
7	5	4	2	9	8	3	1	6
3	4	7	8	5	6	2	9	1
5	2	6	4	1	9	7	3	8
9	1	8	7	2	3	6	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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'Large, Live Shellfish' creations at Tin Hau

MANDARIN ORIENTAL, MANILA'S SIGNATURE Chinese restaurant Tin Hau, presents "Large, Live Shellfish" creations from Sept. 3 to 15. Mouthwatering selections of the day's freshest catch, from flower and coconut crabs, green and red lobsters, oysters and scallops, giant tiger prawns, to green mussels, and many more of the ocean's bounty, are prepared with the most delightful ingredients and are either steamed, baked, pan-fried, flambéed, or wok-fried.

Some of the speciality dishes from the ocean's delectable bounty that can be enjoyed daily in a special a la carte menu for lunch and dinner include: Deep-fried soft shell crab with vegetable crust served with spiced plum sauce, Sauteed crab meat and roe with egg white topped with crisp dried scallops, Sizzling crispy rice cake with assorted shellfish in hot and sour sauce, Stir-fried Suahe shrimp with mango and sweet chili sauce, Baked crab meat in shell with cheese, and Szechuan tofu hot pot with shellfish, among others.

"Large, Live Shellfish" offering is the latest in the series of Chinese culinary promotions that are periodically staged in Tin Hau to delight diners. Tin Hau's set, a la carte, and Chef's Recommendation menus are also not to be missed daily for lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; and dinner, 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. For enquiries and reservations, call Tin Hau at 750-8888 extension 2422/2424.

Ascott appoints director

ASCOTT INTERNATIONAL HAS APPOINTED Sunshine Robles as its director of sales and marketing for its flagship property, Ascott Makati. Robles will oversee the sales and marketing performance of the property with emphasis on corporate sales, awareness for the group's luxury brand, public relations and maintaining a strong corporate base for extended stay residents. Robles has a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry with 25 solid years in the hospitality industry. Previously director of sales for Sofitel, she rose from the ranks starting her career in guest services and eventually moved to sales. She was affiliated with establishments such as Intercontinental and Westin. She holds a diploma in Commerce and majored in Marketing. Robles will be part of the dynamic Philippine team as it continues to deliver the distinct international service that is uniquely Ascott.

Indulge, unwind, explore and rejuvenate

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT THE CALIRAYA Re-Creation Center, a mountain vacation spot situated at Lumban, Laguna. One has to experience it to know how profound its impact would be on a tired soul, as the experience itself is beyond words.

Since it opened in 1995, the place had been home to vacationing groups and families from all over the country as well as countries in Asia like Japan, Hongkong and Taiwan as well as Europe. It also has been visited by numerous church groups regardless of denominations and various schools and corporate groups.

Caliraya Re-Creation Center is a 7.6 hectare property that is owned and managed by The St. Francis Square Group of Companies (formerly the ASB Group of Companies). It is majestically perched on a palm-laced mountain shoulder overlooking the famous man-made Caliraya Lake. It occupies a beautifully manicured landscape complemented by Resort-Class A comfort and amenities. The place is breathtaking and gives the soul a different lift. It is a haven for physical refreshment and a sanctuary for inner healing and peace that will reinvigorate your mind, body and soul.

The resort has a tri-level hotel with 72 well appointed guestrooms that can accommodate up to 5 people. In addition, a multitude of cottages at the campgrounds and 12 Duplex (dormitory type) units near the dock are other accommodation options for the discerning travelers. There is a wide array of group activities that you can indulge in at the resort. There are board games and a number of outdoor ball games just to name a few. Caliraya Re-Creation Center also has a lot of waterfront facilities to offer its guests namely jetskiing, canoeing and kayaking. A newly-constructed six-lane mini Olympic size swimming pool right below the existing pool area provides guests a greater area for water fun. Groups should try the Earthball and the recently built Wall Climbing facility which is the first and highest outdoor fiberglass wall in the country.

Fishing at Caliraya Re-Creation Center is a favorite pastime among a number of guests at the resort while some enjoy horse-back riding at the vast greenery - appreciative of nature's beauty surrounding them. The "Slip & Slide" at the slopes of Caliraya is a "can't-miss" activity that everybody is encouraged to try. Children can also play video games on Playstation consoles for indoor fun while the adults can sing the night away at another new facility in the resort, the KTV rooms or play billiards, darts and table tennis.

The property has been accredited by the Department of Tourism as a "Class A" resort and has consistently won the cleanest and best-landscaped resort recognition given by the Laguna Tourism Council.

So if you want to escape the hustle and bustle of the metro, the resort will give you the balance of a breathtaking view of nature and a vast array of possibilities. Life's simple pleasures become memorable ones, only at Caliraya Re-Creation Center.

In addition, they also cater to all types of occasions such as weddings, debuts, reunions, mini-conferences and various events.

For reservations and inquiries, call (+63928)501-0480, (+632) 632-1010 locals 423 to 427, 238, 281 and 284; telefax (+632)637-7027 or e-mail at reservations.crc@asbgroup.com.ph. Visit the website at www.asbgroup.com.ph to learn more about Caliraya Re-Creation Center.

InterContinental Manila and KLM fly in Italian chefs

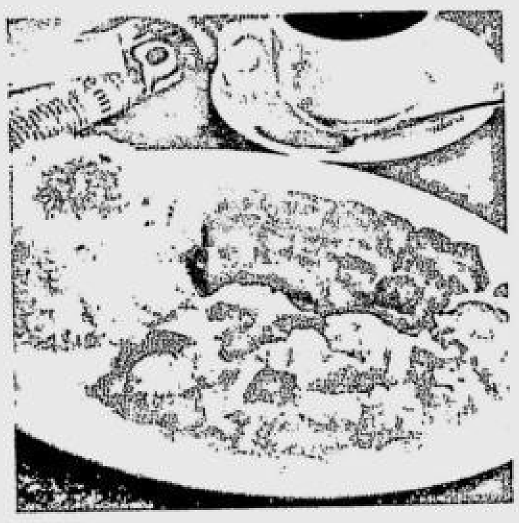
NORTHWESTERN Italy composed of Lombardia, Liguria, Piemonte and Valle d'Aosta is without a doubt at the cutting edge of recent changes in Italian cooking. Today it is a modern cosmopolitan city that offers an unusually wide range of cuisine types ranging from traditional Italian cooking to ethnic cuisine reflective of its multicultural character.

From Sept. 13 to 27, lovers of good food will have the opportunity to partake of Milanese cuisine and other Lombardian gastronomic favorites as InterContinental Manila and KLM partner in bringing in to the Philippines, Crowne Plaza Milan executive chef Michele Ferri and chef de partie Sahra Bregaglio to cook for the Prince Albert Rotisserie. Likewise collaborating with them in bringing this Festa Milanese to fruition are BestWorld Beverage Brands Inc, Galbani, Lactalis, and Werdenberg International.

For Prince Albert's Festa Milanese promotion, diners will encounter flavors, colors, and textures that will appeal to their mind and palate. They will certainly experience a sense of allegria or light-hearted happiness that comes with eating a good Italian meal. Among the a la carte menu items not to be missed are Minestrone alla Milanese, Prosciutto di Parma e Salame Felino, Spaghetti al Ragu dell'aia, Ossibuchi alla Milanese, Filetti di Pesce San Pietro alla Milanese, Torta Paradiso, and Mascarpone allo Zabaione.

The restaurant will be open for lunch Monday to Friday and for dinner Monday to Saturday. Every Prince Albert Rotisserie receipt issued within the promotion period of Sept. 13 to 27 will entitle the guest to a KLM World Business Class shopping voucher worth Euro 200 to be validated upon online purchase of a KLM World Business Class ticket for flights KL 804 or KL 803 via www.klm.com.ph. Guests will also be entitled to take part in a raffle draw that could win for them a round trip Manila/Milan Business Class ticket on KLM.

For reservations or inquiries, call 815-9711.



Wake up to a 'Juan-derful' day at Kalye Juan

JUMPSTART YOUR MORNINGS AT KALYE Juan! Start your day with endless refills of Kape Barako at P20 when you order Sausage Burger and Pandesal for P120. Awaken your still sleepy senses with Kalye Juan's version of Sisiglog or Tapsilog at P140 and P150 respectively. Arouse your taste buds with the Torta't Pandesal or Longsilog at P120 and P130 respectively. And best of all, these breakfast fares are available all day long. So what are you waiting for? Drop by Kalye Juan and have a 'Juan-derful day'!

Mangia con Gusto

PERK UP YOUR SUNDAYS AND INDULGE on your favorite Italian dishes at Tosca - Dusit Hotel Nikko's newest Italian restaurant via its Sunday Italian Brunch Buffet starting Sept. 2. Tosca treats diners with a buffet spread of authentic Italian cuisine masterfully prepared by Italian chef Alessio Loddo, showcasing a wide array of cheeses, fresh salads, scrumptious seafood, delectable meat entrees, and luscious desserts, paired with unlimited Prosecco sparkling wine at P990 net per person. Tosca is located at the mezzanine level of Dusit Hotel Nikko. For reservations and inquiries, call 867-3333 extension 3310.

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SATURDAY Special

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Glowing Brad, Colin-Ewan tandem make Venice scene

PITT. Plays Jesse James in latest film.

PHOTO BY RUBEN NEPALES

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Brad made the most of Venice's famed romantic ambience with 'Angie'

VENICE, ITALY—AS we write this, the jury of the Horizons (Orizzonti) Documentary section was scheduled to watch Lav Diaz's "Kagadanan sa Banwaan Ning Mga Engkanto (Death in the Land of Encantos)" in two installments.

Paolo Bertolin, who's helping the festival by coordinating with Lav, told us that the jury's screening for "Encantos" was set for last Thursday and yesterday.

Lav, Paolo and the festival organizers heaved a collective sigh of relief when the "Encantos" tapes finally arrived here. Finishing the post-production work on the nine-hour movie in time for its screening was an exciting saga for its director.

Challenges

His challenges did not end there, however: When Diaz and members of the cast were ready to leave for Venice, visa and flight booking problems made the adventure more suspenseful.

With Lav, who was also the film's cinematographer and editor, were: production supervisor Laurel Penaranda; production designer and actor Dante Perez; actors Roeder Camanag (who plays fictional poet, Benjamin Agusan), Perry Dizon (Teodoro) and Amalia Virtucio (*albularya*).

The trailblazing filmmaker wrote us *via* e-mail that he was grateful to the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) for giving them travel grants, and to Cecille Guidote-Alvarez for helping secure the group's visas and plane tickets.

Coverage

We continue our Venice Film Festival coverage:

The shoes gave him away. While we were in line for a press screening of Brad Pitt's "The Assassination of Jesse James," we couldn't help but notice the shoes of the man standing behind us. The black sneakers were custom-printed with logos of movie companies—from Pixar to Sony Pictures.

They could only be the shoes of a cineaste. A quick glance of the man's badge proved us right: It was Richard Corliss, who has been covering films for Time magazine since 1980. He was lining up with his wife, Mary, who writes for time.com.

We talked about the films that we liked so far in the festival. Did he ever get tired of this scene? "No," came the esteemed film critic's quick reply, accompanied by a smile. In fact, after Venice, Richard planned to return to New York, for a day before going off again—this time to Toronto.

Golden boy

At the Excelsior Hotel, Brad Pitt, looking like a golden boy again, told us that Angelina and their kids were also in town. "We're a band," he quipped. "We stick together!"

The star revealed that, while they may have brought the children, he and "Angie" made the most of Venice's famed romantic ambience by having a "Mom and Dad" dinner out the previous evening.

With a chuckle, he recalled the time when his movie, "Fight Club," premiered in Venice almost a decade ago. Brad shared: "Edward Norton and I had a few drinks, so we were the only ones in the audience laughing at some of the lines in the movie!"

Writer-director

On the red carpet of the official screening of his Colin Farrell-Ewan McGregor starrer "Cassandra's Dream," Woody Allen held hands with his wife, Soon-Yi. The writer-director looked embarrassed about all the public adulation.

Inside the Palazzo del Cinema, the genius behind such films as "Annie Hall" and "Manhattan" appeared nonplussed, especially when the crowd rose to its feet and applauded as his latest film's credits rolled.

The following day, on Hotel Des Bains' terrace, Woody pondered his new status as a director shooting mainly in Europe, on projects financed mostly by European investors. He quipped, "Who would have imagined that I would be a 'foreign' filmmaker? It's been my dream to become a foreign filmmaker!"

The shy director, noted for conducting very short chats—as in, less than 10 minutes—with actors he's going to cast, hired Colin and Ewan to play brothers without seeing them together first!

Sheer luck

Through sheer luck and those two actors' brilliant acting skills, they proved to have great chemistry and are completely credible as brothers in "Cassandra's Dream."

Colin shared, "Working with Woody disproved my belief that I like to work with as much instruction from directors as possible!"

Ewan, partnered with Woody's find, Hayley Atwell, for this interview, disagreed. He maintained that Woody is very detailed as a director—through his script.

When we commented on the good chemistry he and Colin have onscreen, Ewan said that before they started filming, Colin came to his house. "We became close almost immediately," Ewan disclosed.

Melancholia

Wes Anderson's films such as "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "Life Aquatic" are tinged with melancholia. Watching Wes' competition entry, "The Darjeeling Limited," in which Owen Wilson forces his two brothers (Adrien Brody and Jason Schwartzman) to go with him on a spiritual trip through India, left us more melancholic than usual, in light of Owen's recent suicide attempt. In "Tenenbaums," which Owen cowrote with Wes, his brother Luke plays a character who tries to commit suicide.

Car accident

Owen's head and face are partially bandaged almost throughout "Darjeeling," since he portrays a man who survives a car accident. The actor was

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NOW SHOWING

Indie experiment pays off for Piolo Pascual

By Rito P. Asilo

"Chop Suey"

D: Catherine O. Camarillo

S: Piolo Pascual, Dimples Romana, Andrea del Rosario, Krista Ranillo

LIKE THE SCRUMPTIOUS VEGGIE HODGEpodge that's made more delectable by its starch-thickened sauce, Catherine Camarillo's thoughtful indie dramatic feature is a delectable cinematic slow-burn whose sum is better than its occasionally disjointed parts.

For six months, successful Chinese-Filipino businessman Jimmy Wong (Piolo Pascual) holes up in his room after girlfriend Clarita breaks off their prearranged marriage to be with the man she really loves.

Jimmy's pathological depression soon wreaks havoc on his three younger sisters, Annette, Claire and Leslie, whom he's been taking care of since the demise of their parents.

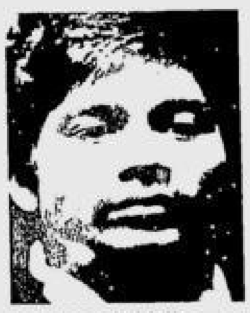
The three women must deal with their respective problems while their beloved *ah-hia* (*kuya* or older brother) wrestles with his inner demons: Headstrong Annette (Andrea del Rosario) can't wait for the dust to settle so she can join her OFW lover, Alex, abroad. In the privacy of her room, she's always seen in front of her webcam-compatible laptop flirting with her paramour. Her dilemma: Alex is also a woman!

Stubborn Leslie (Krista Ranillo) is a call center agent who's torn between her suitors, the favored wealthy Chinoy nerd and his *jologs Pinoy* competitor, whom she likes better. She constantly clashes with her traditionally conservative sister, Claire (Dimples Romana), a lonely and subservient housewife who's continually hounded by her inability to give her arrogant husband a son.

The only time Claire escapes her dreary life is when she's in the market—in full command of everything, as she carefully chooses the ingredients of her famous *chop suey* dish!

While it's hard to suspend disbelief that Piolo is Chinoy, the actor's valiant move to go indie nonetheless pays off. (His "experiment" also reminds us of Judy Ann Santos' admirable foray into digital indies,

INDIE/ F3



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THE INVASION PG13 1:00,3:15,5:30, 7:45,10:00	**SKIN WALKERS** R18 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:20	**DISTURBIA** PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15, 7:35,10:20

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2	1408 // THE INVASION	11:50, 2:05, 4:20, // 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	PG-13

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4	DISTURBIA	11:30, 1:50, 4:10 6:30, 8:50	PG-13
5	NANCY DREW	10:40, 12:55, 3:10 5:25, 7:40, 10:00	GP

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Venue	Date	Show	Time
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	September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
	September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
	October 08 & 09, 2007	"Alamat", Stageplay	[illegible]
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS	Sept. 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
	Sept. 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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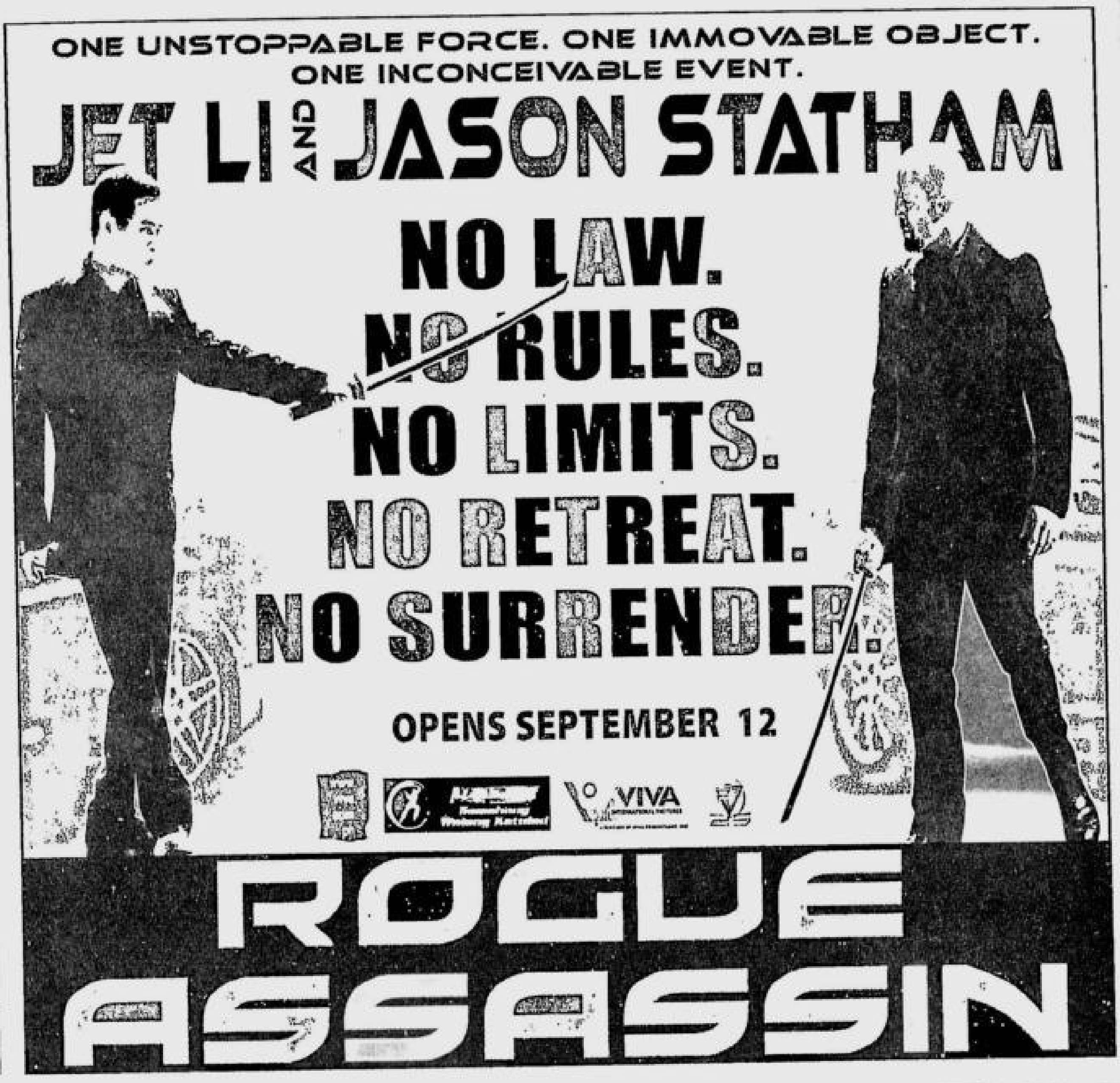

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GLORIETTA 1	1 CHOPSUEY	2 DISTURBIA	3 NANCY DREW	4 A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 DAYWATCH	2 SKINWALKERS	3 THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 ARE WE DONE YET?	5 THE INVASION	6 NANCY DREW	7 1408
GREENBELT 1	1 DAYWATCH	2 NANCY DREW		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	5 DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DISTURBIA	2 NANCY DREW		
	3 DAYWATCH	4 THE INVASION	5 SKINWALKERS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PAN'S LABYRINTH	2 PLANET TERROR	3 RISE	4 THE INVASION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 CHOPSUEY	2 SKINWALKERS		
	3 NANCY DREW	4 DISTURBIA	5 DAYWATCH	
TRINOMA	1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	2 SKINWALKERS	3 DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS	4 NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS
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Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Mall	Event
glorietta	Overseas Korean Traders Association Exhibit September 7 to 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiqueños: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2

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New TV shows vie for viewers' avid attention

By Nestor U. Torre

TELEVISION HAS BECOME such a competitive business in the Philippines that our major networks now trot out new shows practically every other week. And they aren't budget productions, either—in fact, they cost millions to produce. But, the networks are happy to invest in them, because even bigger profits in terms of advertising revenues are in store.

Three singers

Recently, Channel 2 unveiled its latest dramatic *teleserye*, "Pangarap Na Bituin," with Sarah Geronimo, Rica Peralejo and Maja Salvador playing the Jewel Sisters, singers who lost their parents when they were kids and now both love and are unhappy with each other.

In fact, the series' opening episode starts with Sarah's character resigning from the trio at the height of a major concert!

Naturally, this throws her sisters for a loop, and leads to flashbacks to reveal the roots of their mutual disaffections.

Those flashbacks appear to show that the three girls' parents, played by Christopher de Leon and Sandy Andolong, both died during a violent eruption of Mayon volcano.

In addition, another character portrayed by Bembol Roco, also seems to have perished. —What a particularly heavy toll on our thespic icons!

If the three characters did in fact perish during the volcanic eruption, one wonders why the three senior stars agreed to their one-shot appearances.

In any case, the series' first episode was so focused on its flashbacks that the three young leads didn't have much time to establish their characters. The biggest exposure was given to Sarah's aggrieved character, who tearfully lashed out at her siblings in an extended monologue.

Alas, Sarah was not up to the thespic task, as she strained to be appropriately overwrought, without much interiority and "being" going for her. Sarah shouldn't be made to play truly challenging roles before she's ready to do full justice to them.

Game show

The other new program we caught was the game show, "1 vs. 100," helmed by Edu Manzano.

The new program makes a great first impression with its high-tech set. Its format is even more interesting—because, as its title states, the show pits one celebrity contestant against a "mob" of 100 rivals.

The idea is for the main contestant to give the right answers to questions that the "mob" also responds to. When he "survives" a round, he wins a cash prize determined by the number of mob members who answered the question incorrectly.

After a number of rounds, only a few "mobsters" are left, and the cash prizes are sequentially raised. As the pot gets periodically sweetened, the remaining members of the mob plead with the contestant to continue playing—because, if he or she flubs the next question, they get to split his or her winnings!

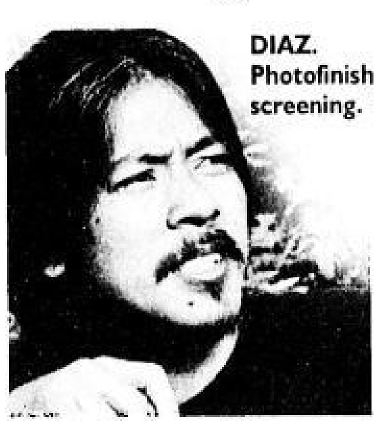
The new game show has been faring well thus far, with only a few low points due to the quality of questions asked, and the interest and entertainment value of the celebrity contestants tapped to be the "1" versus "the 100."

At times, in fact, we wonder why a contestant has been picked, when some of the "mobsters" appear to be livelier and more interesting than the featured celebrity.

MANZANO. His new game show makes a great first impression.

Glowing Brad . . .

From page F1



DIAZ. Photofinish screening.

scheduled to be here for the film's screening, which was received with warm applause.

Wes was overcome by the ovation. Shown before "Darjeeling" was "Hotel Chevalier," a short film also directed by Wes, starring Jason and Natalie Portman.

E-mail rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com, and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

Indie experiment . . .

From page F2

Bona Fajardo's well-intentioned 2005 drama, "Miss Pinoy.")

The actor embraces his character's lonely fate with a silent, subtle fury that touches. He doesn't say much, and he's not asked to do a lot, either. However, six months after his character commences his overextended brooding and sulking, he still looks as fresh and as dashingly clean-cut as ever!

It doesn't help, either, that portions of the film's English subtitles carry erroneous translations, which are further dragged down by wrong grammar (Sample: "Why did they *moved* here?") —Not to mention the awkward psychiatrist's sketchy medical mumbo-jumbo about Jimmy's depressive disorder, which is, to say the least, "under-researched." (As far as Piolo's protracted depression is concerned, we acknowledge that people have different ways of dealing with pain and loss).

The movie's expositional flow also dips in the story's middle-third before its pace picks up for the sumptuously upbeat finale.

Minor quibbles notwithstanding, Camarillo's directorial debut is a breath of fresh cinematic air that underscores the importance of family in every man's life.

It also boasts of above-par technical and production values that benefit largely from Neil Daza's cerebral scenographic touches and Ome Avelanoza's well-limned script.

The production is an acting showcase for the beautiful Dimples Romana, who impresses with her nuanced characterization of a woman who daydreams of a happier marital life that could have been hers had she chosen love over tradition and obligation.

Classic Nick shows. . .

From page F4

Drew Arellano for Gargol

ARELLANO. Pitches for new mouthwash.

New Gargol Oral Wash is being endorsed by TV host, health buff and show biz "breath of fresh air" Drew Arellano. Looking and smelling good are important, especially when Drew conducts interviews, so he regularly gargles with the all-natural mouthwash that uses 100 percent pure essential oils.

Movies on TV

On HBO today at 1:45 p.m., "Bopha." Tomorrow at 1:30 p.m., "Freedomland." Sept. 10 at noontime, "Pride and Prejudice." Sept. 11 at 11 p.m., "Shakespeare in Love." Sept. 12 at 3:45 p.m., "Reds." Sept. 13 at 4:45 p.m., "Selena." Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m., "Dangerous Liaisons."

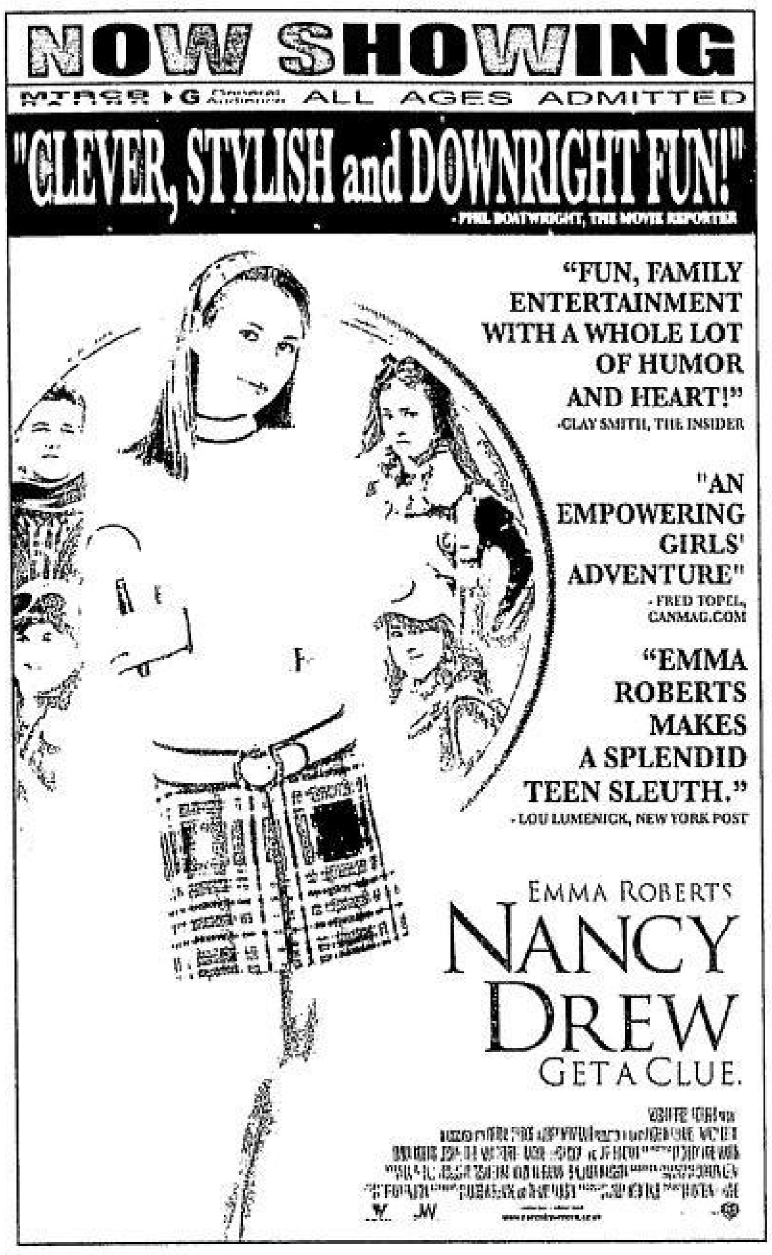
On Cinemax today at 9 p.m., "Constantine." Tomorrow at 9:15 a.m., "Apollo 13." Sept. 10 at 7:50 a.m., "Chinatown." Sept. 11 at 6 a.m., "Merrill's Marauders." Sept. 12 at 2 p.m., "Roman Holiday." Sept. 13 at 5:15 p.m., "Memphis Belle." Sept. 14 at 6:30 a.m., "War and Peace."

'In Love with Manilow'

Current chart-topper "In Love with Manilow" showcases 18 of the popular songsmith's bestsellers, from "Somewhere Down the Road" and "Copacabana" through "Looks Like We Made It" and "Even Now," to "Ready to Take a Chance Again" and "One Voice."

Cor Jesu marks milestone

Cor Jesu College, formerly Holy Cross College of Digos, calls on its alumni to join its week-long activities starting Sept. 22 as CJC marks its 48th year. Call or text Gloria Geverola at 0919 680-8112.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- FRED TOPEL, CANMAG.COM
"EMMA ROBERTS MAKES A SPLENDID TEEN SLEUTH."
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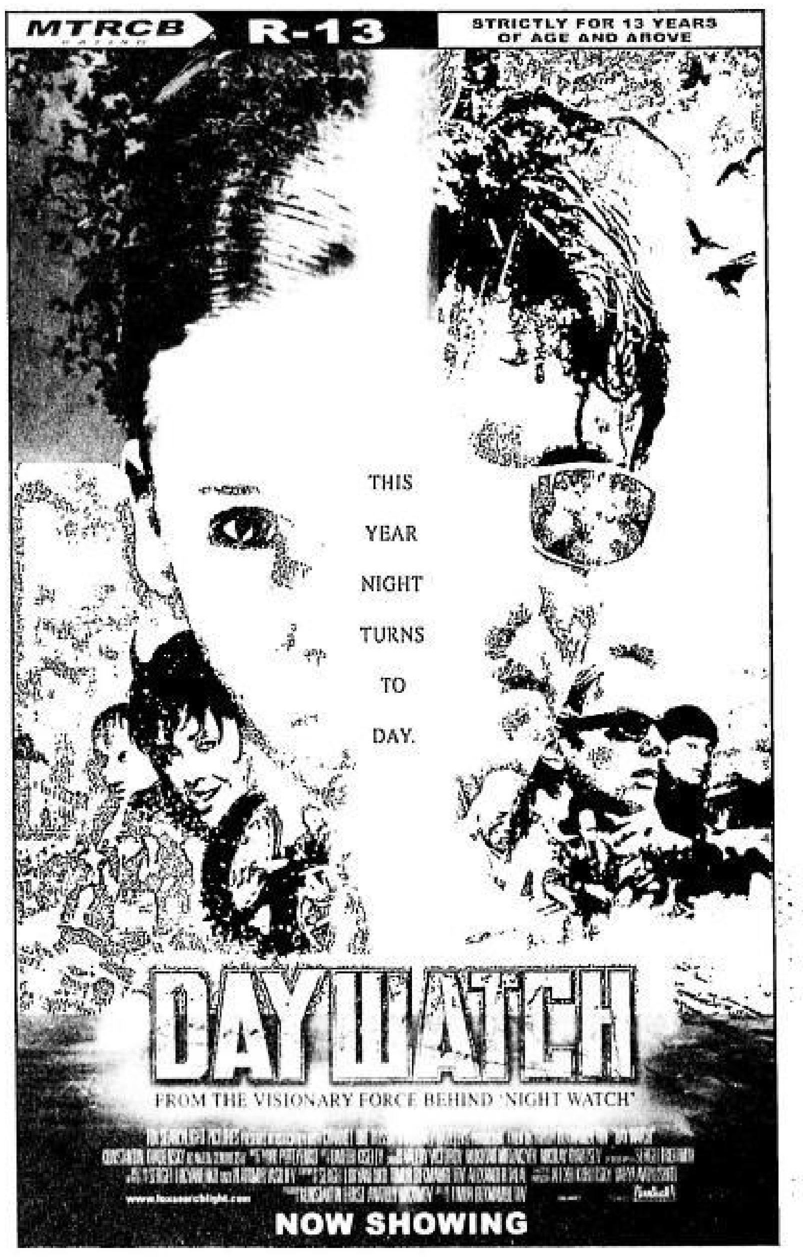
EMMA ROBERTS
NANCY DREW
GET A CLUE.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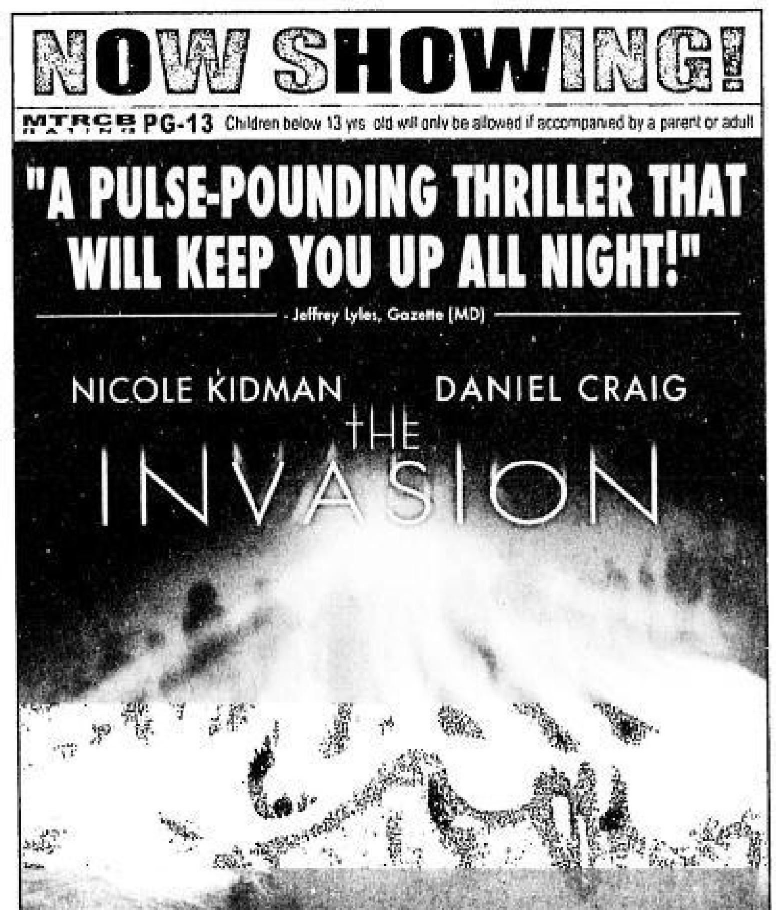
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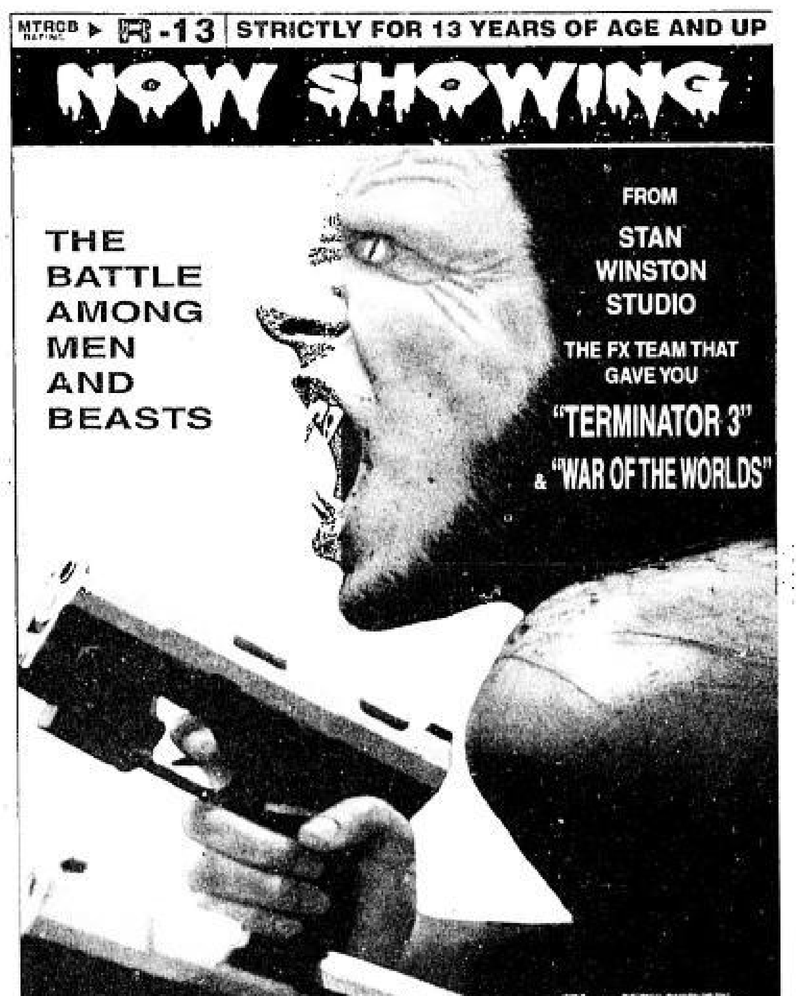
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Kaisa's musical celebrates harmony in diversity

By Rito P. Asilo

ON SEPT. 14 AND 15, ALL roads for the country's Chinese-Filipino community lead to the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Foundation's building and theater in Intramuros for the foudation's fundraising 20th anniversary presentation, the glittering musical revue, "Tsinoy—Kaisa Ka!"

Kaisa's latest production, which tells the story of a young Chinese-Filipino who's contemptuous of his heritage and identity but later learns to appreciate them in the fast-paced course of the story, gives us new reason to celebrate the beauty of diversity in Philippine society. (Call 527-6083, 482-0512, or e-mail kaisadotph@yahoo.com.)

Flashbacks

The theater production's narrative flow glides swiftly as it stages snippets of the Chinese-Filipino experience through the centuries: Chinese-Filipino characters (from Gen. Paua and Jose Rizal to Hay Bing to St. Lorenzo Ruiz) pepper the flashbacks, which also include the Chinese Parian massacre and the Legend of the Pagoda, to the more contemporary issues that affect the modern Chinese-Filipino.

For us, the musical is a homecoming of sorts because, exactly 10 years ago, we played one of the earliest lead roles in our theater career, when Kaisa and Musical Theater Philippines asked us to play Emilio Aguinaldo in "Tsinoy, Mga Anak ng Bayan."

This year, we return to the Kaisa fold to play another hero (Jose Rizal)—and a host of other memorable characters.

During lulls at rehearsals, we chatted with Kaisa's highly regarded Teresita Ang See:

Why did you decide to stage "Tsinoy, Kaisa Ka!"? And why the extensive scope of the material? Do you think the Pinoy audience will be able to relate to something like this?

FIREFIGHTERS sing about courage and sacrifice in rousing production number.

We want the Pinoys to realize that, like any other people, the Chinoy can't be typecast into just a single face—he is as complex as the next person. The stereotype of the rich Chinaman as the employer must be debunked. The different faces of the Chinese-Filipino are no different from those of the Pinoy. We defy typecasting.

Why was Kaisa founded? The public initially sees it as a crime-monitoring and crime-busting body, but obviously, it's more than that.

Kaisa was founded in 1987 in response to the pressing need to rebuild a nation devastated by decades of dictatorship and corruption. The restored democratic space gave ample opportunities for NGOs to fill up the needs that government failed to address—like tapping the Chinese-Filipino's potential for nation-building. Never in our imagination did we think that one day, Kaisa would be called upon to give a face to victims of kidnapping.

MUSICAL'S cast members pay tribute to the richness of Chinese cuisine.

Sense of security

In order for the Chinoy to do what they do well—that is, business—they must have peace of mind and a sense of security. This was badly threatened, and capital flight was destroying what we had tried to help build up—confidence for our country. For every kidnap victim who closed shop, fellow Chinese-Filipinos lost their jobs. Kaisa couldn't just have stayed as a silent bystander when all those things happened!

JOSE Mari Chan renders beautiful song about our children's future.

What do you think is Kaisa's biggest achievement?

The building of the Kaisa Heritage Center is a proud statement that Chinese-Filipinos, at last, have laid claim to their rightful place in the Philippine sun. That the center, which houses the Bahay Tsinoy Museum of the Chinese in Philippine Life, came into being highlights the success of the integration process.

The Chinoys have become comfortable with their Filipino identity, of being a part and not apart of mainstream society.

Eye-opener

Where do you see "Tsinoy, Kaisa Ka!" going? Do you intend to stage it around the country? The material is an eye-opener to both Pinoys and Chinoys. It can break some social stereotypes and cultural caricatures.

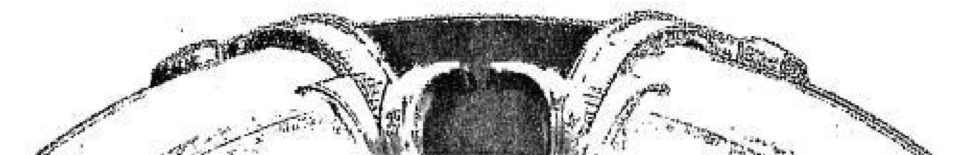
Yes, we will have repeat runs on Nov. 4 and 6, and there have been many inquiries about showing it outside Manila.

What do you wish to achieve with the staging of this latest musical? Do you see the group stretching its reach and influence more and more through the arts?

Yes, the subliminal message of the show is to enhance understanding and awareness about the true role and impact of the Chinese-Filipino in all events that shape the Philippines as a nation. This includes the arts—music, drama—not just business.

Benchmark

The portion in the show about Lawrence Ong is a true-to-life story. He is our benchmark for a development worker—a true volunteer! Not even Pinoys can do better than what he has done. He had a choice to stay home and play the role of an eldest Chinoy son—but he chose to live his life for others, to burn his candle to give light to others!



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The Bloomfields

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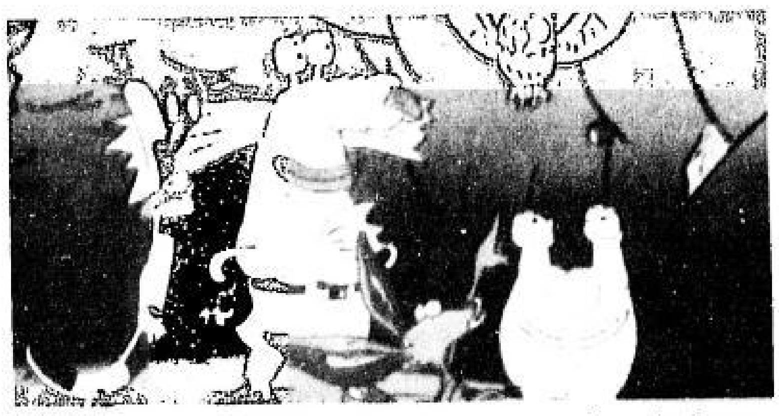
"AHH!! REAL MONSTERS." Tricks of the monster trade regale viewers.

Classic Nick shows make comeback

MONTAGE

WELL-LOVED SHOWS FOR young viewers from the '90s are making a big comeback on Nickelodeon every Friday and Saturday starting Sept. 14 at 10 p.m. First up is "Aahh!! Real Monsters," set in Monster Academy, where students like Krumm, Ickis and Oblina learn the terrifying tricks of the monster trade.

In "Clarissa Explains It All," Clarissa and her best friend, Sam, manage to keep their sanity while putting up with all the ridiculous stuff students have to contend with in high school.

In "Cousin Skeeter," a daredevil DJ and rap artist turns Bobby's world upside down. "Kenan & Kal" topbills Kena Thompson and Kel Mitchell as two really cool cats.

"Rocko's Modern Life" is about the misadventures of an Australian wallaby. "The Adventures of Pete & Pete" focuses on two brothers who find meaning in the things that make life better—and weirder.

"The Amanda Show" is an outrageous sketch comedy starring Amanda Bynes. "The Ren & Strimpy Show" welcomes viewers to its cartoon world, where things are definitely not what they seem. And "Kablam!" compiles an exciting array of action-packed minishows each week. Log on to www.nicksplat.com.

'Rogue Assassin'

LI. First team up with Statham in action thriller.

In the new thriller, "Rogue Assassin," Jet Li and Jason Statham are cast as adversaries set on a violent collision course in the Asian mob underground.

Li has killed Statham's friend, so Statham vows to gun him down. He finds Li during a bloody war between a Chinese mob leader and a Yakuza boss—only to discover that Li is not what he's believed to be!

'Saludo Filipino'

Launching the MCO Arts Festival dance season is "Saludo Filipino," featuring performers from the Vella C. Damian School of Ballet, Dance Concert Company and Benildanz. On Sept. 23 at the BDO South Tower, Makati City. Call 840-7000, loc. 2630.

On Cartoon Network

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Fast Forward" telecasts weekdays at 5:30 p.m., after "Ed, Edd n' Eddy" at 4:30 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m., "Chunky Weekend Toons" with Bugs Bunny and other Looney Tunes characters. Sept. 15 from 8 a.m. to noontime, a marathon airing of "Pokemon: The Orange League" shows in "Pokemania 2."

On National Geographic Channel

Sept. 12 at 3 p.m., "Situation Critical: Hollywood Shootout." Sept. 13 at 9 a.m., "Megamovers: Deep Sea Drillers." Sept. 17 at 7 p.m., "The Living Weapon" focuses on biological warfare. Sept. 20 at 11 p.m., "I Didn't Know That" answers questions related to the hottest chili peppers, bedbugs and speed-eating tilts.

On Studio 23

Tomorrow and on Sept. 16 at 7:30 p.m., "Answering the Call: Ground Zero Volunteers" honors the 9/11 rescuers.

Mondays at 11 a.m., "Rachel Ray" guests (Sept. 10) Michael J. Fox, (Sept. 17) Katharine McPhee, and (Sept. 24) "ER's" hot doc, John Stamos.

CLASSIC/ F3

SATURDAY Special

IN THIS ISSUE
- Shia LaBeouf needs to stretch his thespic limits /G4

ZETA-JONES. Plays a chef in the romantic comedy, "No Reservations."

Much-missed stars make comebacks in wide range of film types

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME STARS APPEAR IN A COUPLE OF films a year, but others stay away from the big screen for years on end. They have different reasons for doing so.

For instance, Julia Roberts took time off to have babies before her biological clock ticked its last. Jodie Foster spent years waiting for the right script to come along. And Catherine Zeta-Jones enjoyed domesticity with husband Michael Douglas and their children so much that she practically had to be pried away from them to shoot her new starrer.

Long hiatus

Well, the important thing is that some much-missed established stars are being seen on movie screens again, after a long hiatus.

Opening soon in town is "The Brave One," where Jodie Foster plays a self-styled female vigilante who sequentially "executes" the evil men who cruelly sundered her happy life.

The role is controversial, because the quest for justice through violent means is seen as a no-no in legal circles. The fact that the protagonist in the film is a female makes it even more of a magnet for heated discussion.

For her part, Catherine Zeta-Jones has opted to make her comeback of sorts in a romantic comedy set—in a gourmet kitchen! She plays an acclaimed chef who is so focused on her career that she only has eyes for olives—until a rival chef comes along and makes her sizzle.

At first, it's out of anger, but the animosity eventually turns into ardent *l'amour*. Properly chastised and transformed, she belatedly realizes that there's much more

MUCH-MISSED/ G2

FOSTER. Cast as self-styled vigilante in "The Brave One."

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'Suroy-Suroy sa Sugbo'

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

FROM AUG. 30 TO SEPT. 1, WE SPENT THREE days visiting 14 towns and cities in the northern part of Cebu, with 270 local and *balikbayan* tourists led by Cebu's energetic Gov. Gwen Garcia.

All the 14 towns' mayors prepared a musical programs. The town plaza was often the place for meals for the big group. *Lechon* was always present, as were oysters and local delicacies like *bugbog kabog* and *suman*. Dinner fare included grilled fish, crabs, prawns and *kilawin*.

To complete the visit, mayors laid out stores selling Cebu's handicrafts, like finely-woven baskets, trays, stoneware, furniture, food delicacies, *sinamay* in electrifying colors, and slippers.

Christmas giveaways

Tourists crowded around the *borloloys*—necklaces and bangles made of natural materials like wood, shells and bright cloth. I bought a big box for Christmas giveaways.

SUROY SUROY SUGBU

GARCIA (SECOND FROM LEFT). Spearheads unique scheme to show off her province's natural richness.

In another town, rows of students lined up to wave flags. They call the governor "Gwen"—which means "Greening With Environment Now," a unique scheme for pupils to plant 10 jackfruit trees each.

Why the jackfruit? Because, after only four years, the tree bears fruit, and its lumber is used to make guitars. Cebu, after all, is known for these musical instruments.

We slept over in three different resorts. Most unforgettable was the Hoyohoy Resort, which had rooms on huge stilts.

The caravan was a colorful experience no Filipino should miss. Join the next "Suroy-Suroy sa Sugbo." Gov. Gwen's projects in Cebu are no doubt engaging—one of them includes the province's now-famous dancing prisoners.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com, or visit www.mandynavasero.com.

Much-missed stars . . .

From page G1

to life than professional success, and that great relationships are yummier than top gourmet ratings.

ADAMS. Goes from fantasy to comedy.

Oscar nominee Amy Adams ("The Wedding Date," "Catch Me If You Can") returns to the big screen with two starrers, "Enchanted" and "Underdog."

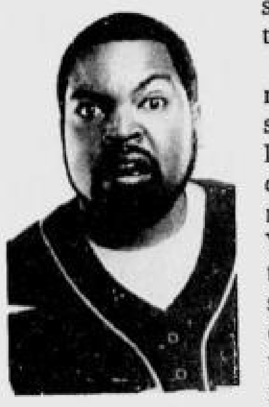
In "Enchanted," she plays the lovely Princess Giselle, who is banished by an evil queen (Susan Sarandon) from her magical land, and is shocked to find herself in the gritty reality of the streets of modern-day Manhattan.

Unnerved by this strange, new environment that doesn't operate on a "happily ever after" basis, Giselle is adrift in a chaotic world badly in need of enchantment. But, when Giselle falls in love with a lawyer played by Patrick Dempsey, she wonders: Can a storybook view of romance survive in the real world?

Romantic tension

Meanwhile, in "Underdog," Adams changes gears and provides the voice of Polly Purebred, the alluring but seemingly unattainable spaniel with whom the movie's resident superhero, Underdog, shares some romantic tension.

Finally, Ice Cube returns to the silver screen with "Are We Done Yet?," the sequel to his hit starrer, "Are We There Yet?" This second time around, his signature screen character contends with the suburban nightmare of transforming his run-down house into a home.



ICE Cube reprises popular role in "Are We There Yet?"

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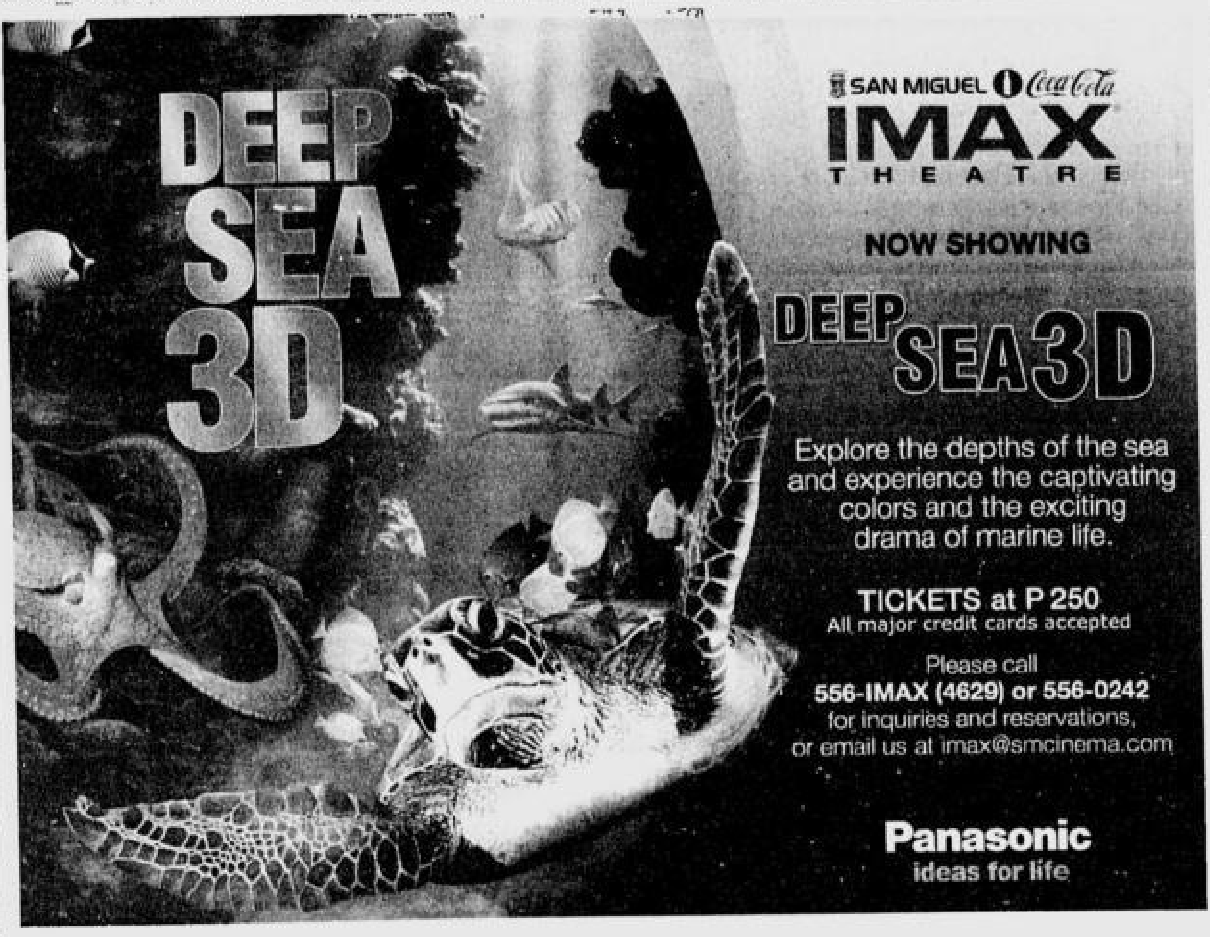

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'Foster Child' in cinemas on Sept. 12

BRILLANTE MENDOZA'S "FOSTER CHILD," which had its world premiere at the recent Cannes International Film Festival, will open in cinemas across the country starting Sept. 12.

Featuring the award-winning performance of Cherry Pie Picache (best actress, Ninth Osian's Cinefan International Festival in India), the movie tells the story of Thelma (Picache), a foster mother from the slums who receives a meager P1,500 monthly stipend for every child placed in her care.

Slice of life

Osian's Cinefan hails Picache's acting as "a performance that has managed to make even a fictional story look very much like a slice of life." Picache's character is based on a real-life foster parent working for a Philippine non-government organization, Kaisang Buhay Foundation, which helped the actress play the role with such authenticity.

PICACHE with her young ward (Kier Segundo) in Mendoza's film.

Shot in real-time mode, director Mendoza, with script by Ralston Jover, presents with deep empathy the situation of most foster parents-for-hire in a third world country like the Philippines.

Standing ovation

Audiences at the Cannes International Film Festival gave the film a 10-minute standing ovation during its world premiere. "Critics find the film authentic and moving. Filipinos are portrayed as warm and innately caring people," adds Robbie Tan, the film's producer.

"Foster Child" is currently making the rounds of the film festival circuit, with scheduled screenings at the Montreal World Film Festival this month and at the Pusan International Film Festival in October. It's produced by Seiko Films and distributed internationally by Ignatius Film Canada.

The CompanY, UP Jazz Ensemble in 'big band' concert

THE ENDURING VOCAL QUINTET, THE CompanY, joins forces with the UP Jazz Ensemble (under the leadership of Rayben Maigue) to bring to the stage the "big band" concert, "Let's Kick Some BrASS (a big band celebration)."

The show begins its run on Sept. 15 at the Davao Convention and Trade Center in Davao City at 8 p.m. The gala performance is scheduled on Oct. 13 at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines at 8 p.m.

"Let's Kick Some BrASS!" features a wide array of musical genres that combine The CompanY's vocal harmonies with the UP Jazz Ensemble's sonic wall of brasses.

Contemporary sound

Act One will showcase the musical genres of jazz, standards, swing, classical music, *a capella*, Original Pilipino Music (OPM) and Broadway tunes. Act Two tackles the contemporary sound of rock, house music, rhythm and blues, Motown, jazz fusion, Latin, novelty, OPM and mainstream pop.

"Let's Kick Some BrASS!" is written and directed by Moy Ortiz, with choreography by Georcelle Dapat, sound and lights by Mon Vitan's Ilaw at Tunog, wardrobe by Danilo Franco and marketing by Ultimate Entertainment.

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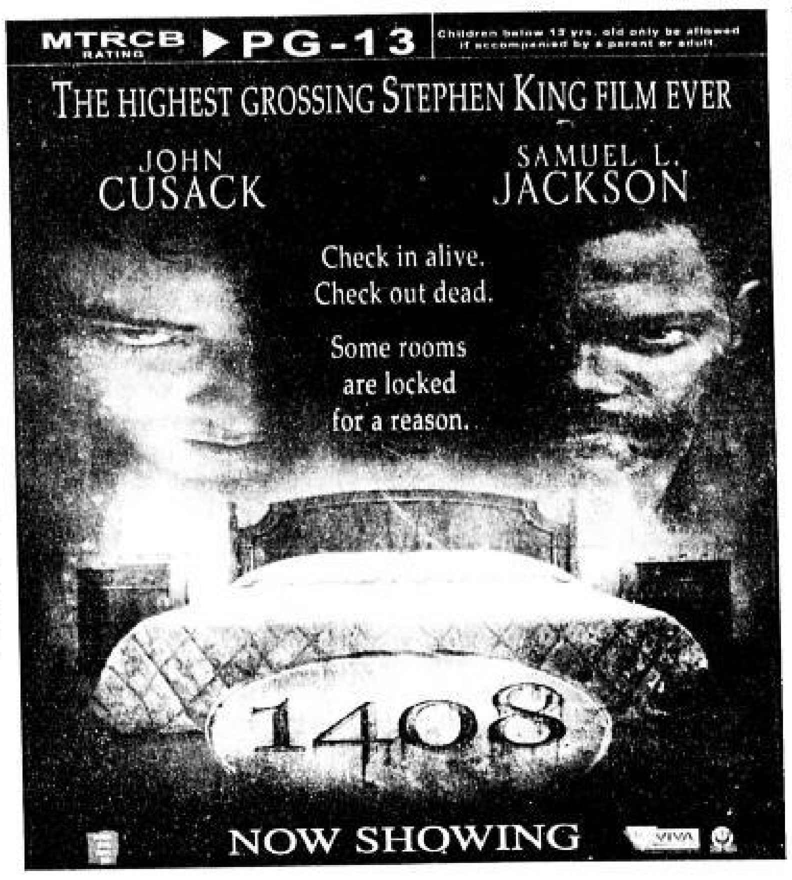
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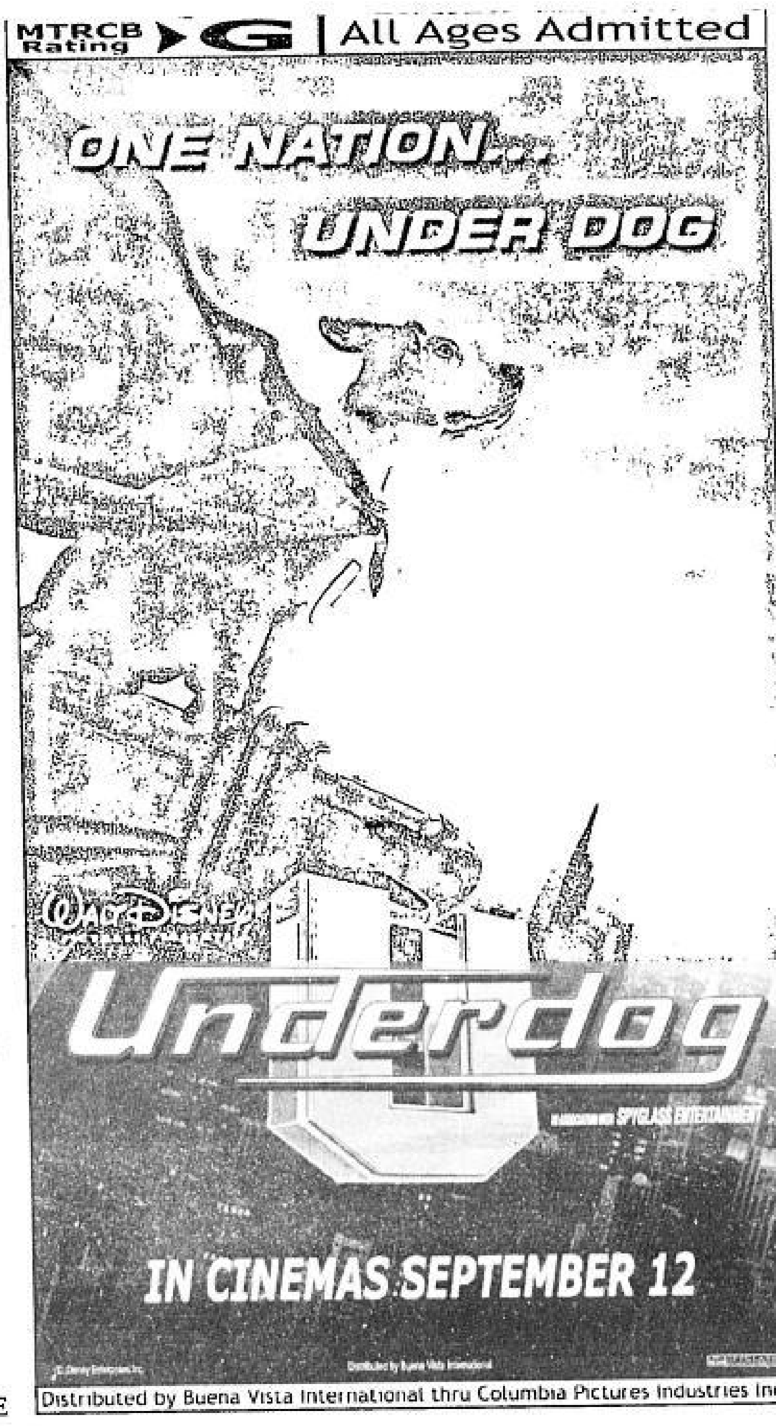
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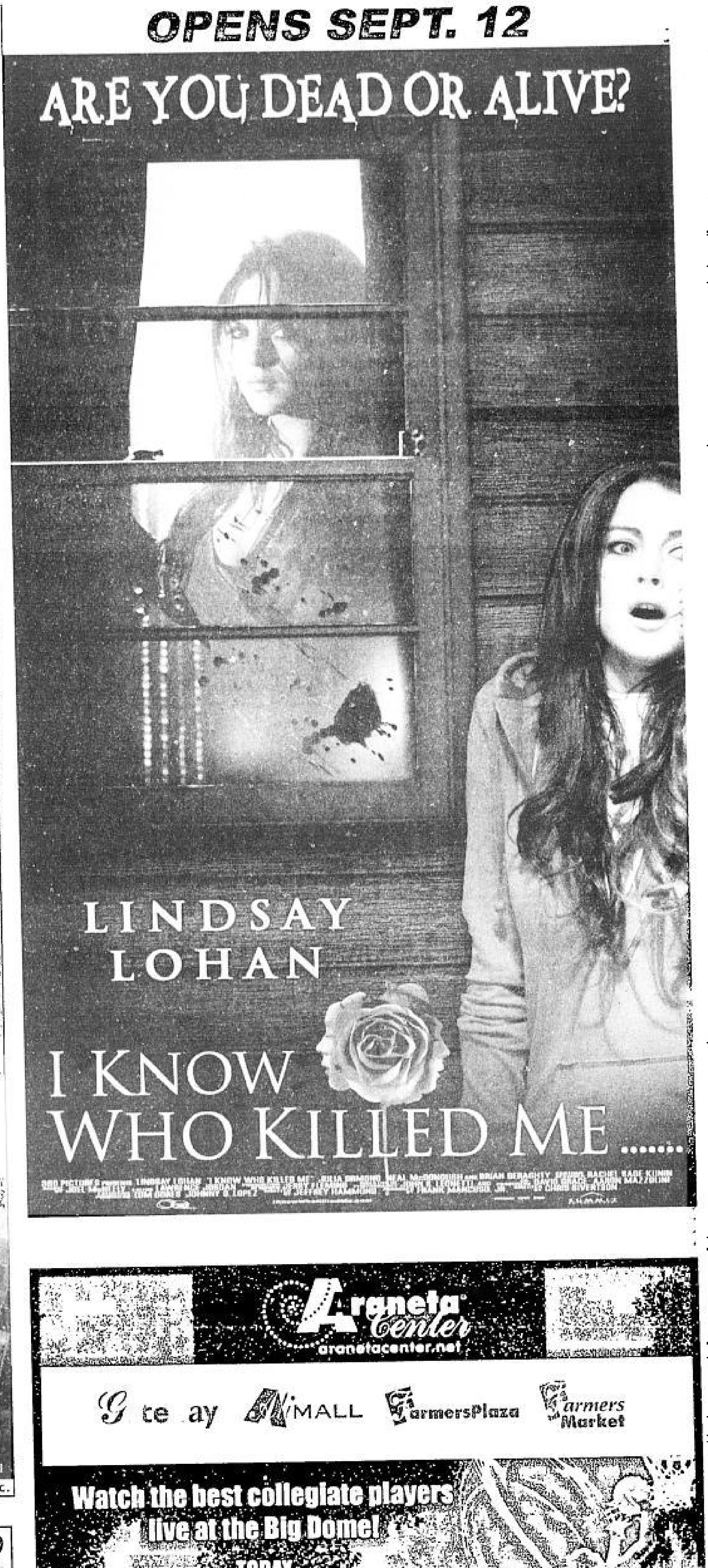
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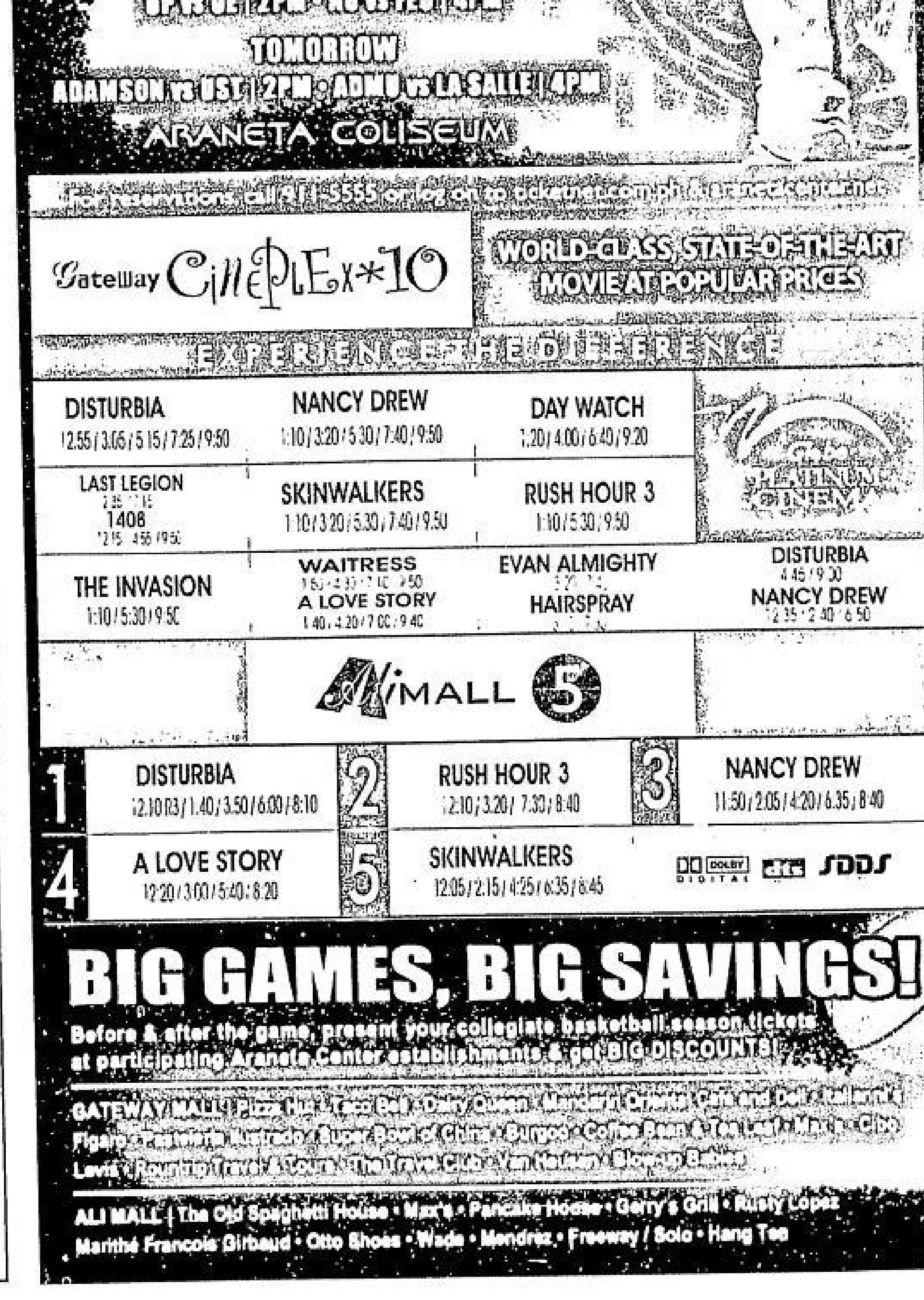
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Shia LaBeouf needs to stretch his thespic limits

LABEOUF. Should give his boy-next-door character a rest and opt to do a challenging drama—*if* he's up to it.

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER STARRING IN MOVIES LIKE "Transformers" and "Bobby," Shia LaBeouf has emerged as the current prince of Hollywood. Viewers love his aw-shucks, boy-next-door projection, prompting producers to profitably cast him in one project after another.

The fact that he has only average looks makes him winningly accessible to many young viewers, thus considerably boosting the empathetic level of his portrayals.

Warmth and spontaneity

In "Transformers," Shia turned in a delightfully natural and vulnerable performance that lent warmth and spontaneity to what would otherwise have been just a slick, high-tech, sci-fi robot caper.

With him around to provide its human dimension, the production hit it big as a sci-fi movie with heart and humor. Yes, if its evil robots triumphed over its good 'bots, the world could come to an end—but it would be a fun trip, nonetheless!

Months after "Transformers" was shown locally, another LaBeouf starrer, "Disturbia," is currently showing in town. It turns out that this chiller was released in the States *before* "Transformers," but we went to see it just the same, to see how Shia's talent and appeal would hold up, this second time around.

In "Disturbia," Shia plays a teenager who's restricted to his home for three months after a run-in with the law. While morosely meditating on his navel for weeks on end, he spies on his neighbors—and comes to the shocking conclusion that one of them is in fact a serial killer who lures clueless women to his well-appointed home in order to torture and kill them.

Naturally, he wants to expose his neighbor and sic the cops on him—but nobody believes him! Toward the end, his own mother is about to become a victim, so Shia risks everything to rescue her.

Comeuppance

The film is a potent combination of teen smarts and scheming adults, but falls short of being a winner, because the serial killer is allowed to get away with so much. He does get his comeuppance in the end, but by then, our disbelief has been suspended for so long that real empathy and involvement have pretty much withered on the vine.

But, our main focus today is on Shia's performance. How well does he do as "Disturbia's" antsy and misunderstood young protagonist? Well, he's still cute and appealing, and he acts up an entertaining storm—but, when you get right down to it, his performance here is generally a mere repetition of his appealing frisky portrayal in "Transformers."

Vehicle

The fear, therefore, is that the very likable young actor will turn out to be a one-note performer from one film to the next. This is a fate he definitely doesn't deserve, so he should try really hard to make his next film a totally different vehicle. He should give his signature boy-next-door character a rest and opt to do a challenging drama, *if* he's up to it.

SHIA/ G5

Tribute to the gallant Filipino soldier

SISON-TAGLE. First major concert.

SINCE 1986, THE Alay Sa Kapwa Foundation (ASK) has been supporting the families of non-commissioned soldiers who have been killed or permanently disabled in combat.

ASK president Ramon Pedrosa reveals that over 5,000 soldiers have been killed in action since 1987. Currently, the foundation helps some 4,000 families through financial assistance, scholarships and livelihood projects.

In support of ASK's laudable endeavors, and to pay tribute to the gallant Filipino soldier, singer-painter George Sison-Tagle is staging "Salute to George: First Major Concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra," on Sept. 13 at the Crowne Plaza Grand Ballroom.

Tagle bridges the gap between classical and pop as he performs R & B, standards and jazz. His special guests include Ivy Violan, Rachelle Gerodias, Carla Humphries, Transportation Secretary Angelo Reyes, and the classical-pop tenor group, Cinco Angelos. Call Newsmakers at 911-5615 or 438-7200.

VIOLAN. Special guest.

Silent films engage and entertain

By Rica Arevalo

IF YOU WANT A DIFFERENT KIND of viewing experience, catch the First International Silent Film Festival at Greenbelt 3 in Makati. The festival runs until Sept. 13.

German animator

It's generally believed that Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (1936) was the first full-length animated film, but way back in 1926, German animator Lotte Reiniger had already screened her "silhouette" animation, "The Adventures of Prince Achmed," to great acclaim.

Based on the book, "1001 Arabian Nights," the film is considered the oldest surviving full-length animated feature.

We caught this silent classic last Sept. 4. The film employed black cardboard cut-outs with intricate designs. Hues of blue, green, yellow and orange in the background made the viewing experience more exciting. Take note that, in those days, there were no computers or animation studios. Every single artwork was laboriously done by hand.

The film is divided into five acts, which tells the story of Prince Achmed falling for the lovely Pari Banu. After he sees her for the first time, he declares his love right away: "I wish to serve you until my death!" The prince's nemesis, an African magician, abducts Pari Banu and brings her to mystical China, where she is sold to an emperor.

Lovers

Feeling hopeless, Achmed meets Alladin (yes, he with the magic lamp). Together, they both fight demons and spirits to retrieve their respective lovers. The film uses flashbacks, especially when Alladin narrates how he lost his prized possessions: His magic lamp, the palace and his family.

We also meet another ally, the Fire Mountain Witch, who helps Achmed and Alladin escape from their supernatural opponents.

Throughout the screening, a live performance featuring local trip-hop band, Drip, "accompanied" the film. The band's experimental electronic music and the seductive vocals of Beng Calma provided the right atmosphere for the adventures of Prince Achmed.

On Sept. 10, catch Nemesio Sobrevila's 1929 film, "The Sixth Sense" (Spain) with music by Wahijuara, and on Sept. 13, Buntaro Futagawa's "A Monster Serpent" (Japan, 1925) will be accompanied by the Makiling Ensemble. Don't miss this unique viewing experience!

Tale of two singing matinee idols

By Behn Cervantes

HOLLYWOOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN ATTRACTED TO MUSIC FROM THE TIME silent films were first shown. It was the accompaniment of the ubiquitous piano that produced what imaginative players thought were appropriate background music for action, suspense and romance.

Later, the musical accompaniment was rendered by majestic organs that produced the movie's grand music.

When the talkies came, they were also highlighted by singing. Hollywood was in search of romantic singers. Two of the most successful singing matinee idols were Dick Powell and Dick Haymes.

A former vocalist and emcee, Powell made his debut in Warner Brothers' "Blessed Event" in 1932. An all-around performer, Powell was a singer, actor, director and producer during his long and profitable career.

Character switch

After establishing himself as a romantic lead, he unexpectedly branched out to play tough private-eye characters like Johnny O'Clock. To his delight, the public accepted the character switch, and he went on to direct and produce "The Conqueror," starring John Wayne and Susan Hayward, and "The Enemy Below." His widow was the effervescent June Allyson.

Hardly does the public hear his voice these days, however—except in TV replays of his old musicals.

On the other hand, we still hear Dick Haymes' recordings to this day. The singer possessed one of the most delicate of baritone voices ever heard in Hollywood. His easy manner was ideal for the sweet ballads of Rodgers and Hart, like "When or Where" and "Isn't It Romantic?"

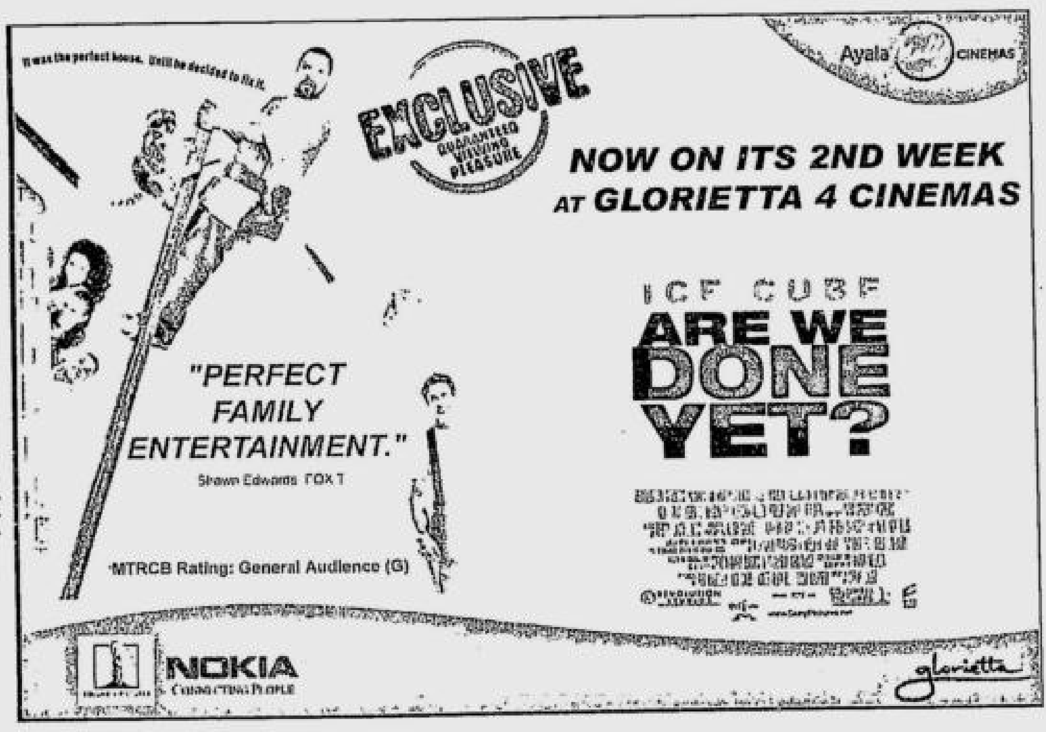
He appeared in "Du Barry Was a Lady," "Irish Eyes Are Smiling" and "One Touch of Venus," opposite Ava Gardner, where he rendered the immortal Kurt Weill song, "Speak Low."

Beautiful women

Many beautiful women fell in love with the erstwhile nightclub singer after he was contracted by 20th Century Fox in 1940. Haymes married six times, and his wives included Joanne Dru and the legendary Rita Hayworth.

But, the Scottish-American crooner never quite hit his stride in the film capital. He was besieged by marital woes and financial troubles, and faced immigration problems after he registered himself as a resident alien to avoid being drafted during World War II. The government never forgot the ploy, so he was declared an "undesirable alien" when he later tried to re-enter the country.

While Powell's career flourished with time and age, Haymes declared bankruptcy in 1960 and 1971. In the '60s, he became a resident of Ireland. He never regained his show biz stature.



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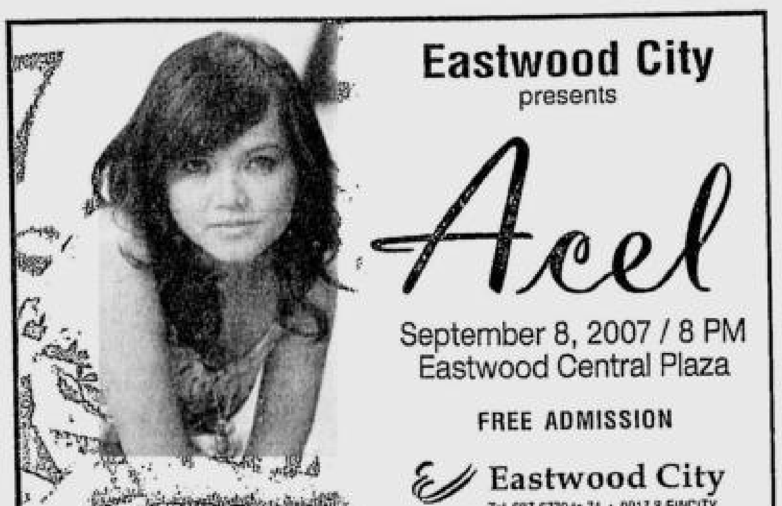

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Old-fashioned charm boosts 'Nancy Drew'

By Noelani Torre

SMARTER THAN MOST FILMS aimed at tweens, "Nancy Drew" is a nice, enjoyable movie that, despite not being particularly brilliant, still stands out from the rest. This is mostly due to the film's titular character, fictional iconic girl sleuth, Nancy Drew, who is as squeaky clean and wholesome as she's always been since she solved her first case in 1930.

After being subjected to countless movies of teenage girls depicted as tramps-in-the-making, it's refreshing to see a good, old-fashioned kid like Nancy on the big screen, with her penny loafers, knee socks, along with her "please" and "thank yous."

Yes, goody-goody kids can be annoying, but Nancy—as played by young, up-and-comer Emma Roberts—manages to stay charming. Roberts, niece of Julia and daughter of Eric, proves that she's inherited her fair share of the family's talent for acting, as well as a dose of Aunt Julia's good vibes.

ROBERTS. Has her Aunt Julia's good vibes.

Endearing

Her performance as the spunky, smart and *über*-capable heroine is endearing and, though the uneven script sometimes falters, she soldiers on.

Directed by Andrew Fleming from a script he co-wrote with Tiffany Paulsen, the film is a reasonably authentic adaptation of the character from the long-running and beloved young-adult series of books. Not all fans will be pleased with the details, perhaps—sidekicks, Bess and George, for example, only make a token appearance in the beginning—but Nancy herself remains the same.

It's the times and the setting that have undergone more than a few changes. Set in the present, the movie shows us the most famous girl detective in history—fictional and otherwise—trying to fit into Hollywood High School in the middle of La-La Land.

Nancy leaves the picturesque town of River Heights—after nabbing two burglars—to go with her father (Tate Donovan) to LA, where he hopes to get higher fees as a lawyer. She has promised him that she will stop her dangerous sleuthing but, of course, the house they've just rented has a perfectly delicious mystery—that she just can't help but solve!

Movie star Dehlia Draycott (Laura Elena Harring of "Mulholland Drive") had been found dead in her swimming pool more than 20 years before, and nobody has ever been able to say whodunit. There's a creepy caretaker on the estate, a lot of creaking boards, Chinese boxes with false bottoms, a missing will, and a sufficiently gloomy secret passage—all of which are details you'd find in the Nancy Drew books.

What you won't find there are the iBooks, iPods and archetypal Valley Girls who play "Mean Girls" kinds of tricks on too-good-to-be-true Martha Stewart-ish newcomers.

Mystery

The mystery itself is predictable, and this is perhaps the movie's biggest flaw. Not that the books themselves would win any Edgars, but they were well plotted enough to keep their readers glued to their pages. Your interest is only mildly engaged by the movie version's mystery, and even the typical 12-year-old reader will find flaws in the narrative.

The movie's short length—99 minutes—works in its favor. If it were even five minutes longer, you would have started to feel cheated. As it is, "Nancy Drew" is reasonably entertaining and will no doubt appeal to those who, like Nancy, "just like old things!"

Fish out of water

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

WE'RE LIKE FISH out of water—gasping for breath when we find ourselves on land instead of the deep ocean. We feel stress and anxiety because this material world doesn't satisfy our longing for security.

Struggle

Like fish struggling to survive on land, we find the struggle for existence burdensome and difficult. We're unhappy because we're not home. We're eternal beings trying to fit into a temporary dimension.

Yet, when we're called back to the cool confines of our real home, we object, question, argue and rebel. We rationalize: "I'm happy despite the wars, confusion, drug addiction, diseases and broken relationships! Why go into the ocean?"

Simple poem

Great sages teach us: "You can swim because you're a fish. It's natural for you to be in the ocean. Don't worry. Your real home—the spiritual world, not the material realm—will bring you comfort!" Their message is found in this simple poem:

We're spirit souls, like fish out of water
We think our bodies are made of matter

We believe this world is our home
Yet, we feel alone and out of place

If we seek our natural condition
We'll find peace and satisfaction

Swim out there, dive into the ocean of love
Then, we'll find shelter in God's embrace

Dear fish, stop struggling on land
Place your heart and mind in God's hand!

Shia LaBeouf . . .

From page G4

Tom Hanks had to deal with a similar problem early in his own career: He played it aw-shucks appealing and funny from movie to movie, until he also ended up repeating himself.

So, he "dared" to do "Philadelphia" and other challenging films, and his thespic reputation got a big boost—that has kept him at the top of Hollywood's stellar heap to this day.

Let's hope that Shia LaBeouf's career will similarly flourish—and endure.

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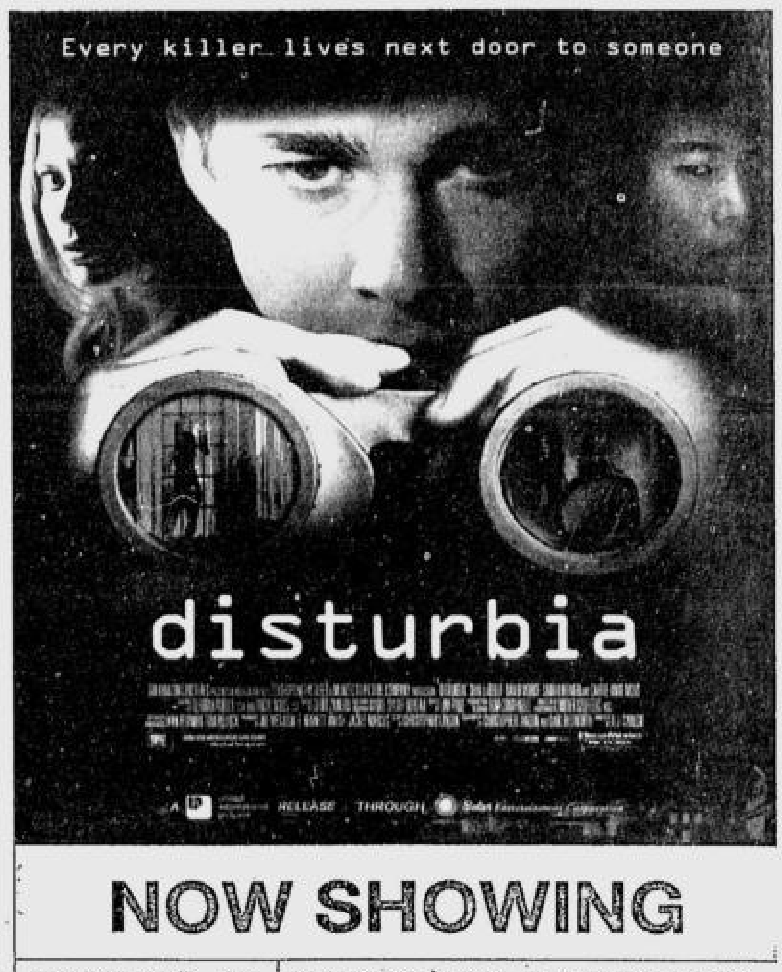

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to all the winners of
LICENSE TO WED
An Unforgettable Photo Exhibit
NOEL & OFEL SAMBOA
Pasig City
RICHARD & LEAH MAMUYAC
Pasig City
MICHAEL & PEARLIE UY
Mandaluyong City
* You may now claim your prizes at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria and look for Ms. Gemma Navarro

SKYCABLE

PREMIERES ALL-NEW CHANNEL LINE-UP

SkyCable continues to bring quality innovations to cable TV as it proudly introduces six new channels carrying some of the world's award-winning and highly-anticipated programs. Beginning January 1, 2008, loyal SkyCable subscribers will get the ultimate viewing pleasure with the entry of all-new quality shows that cater to viewers of all ages and their varied interests. Produced by well-established international cable brands as well as locally syndicated ones, the new channels are set to bring Philippine cable TV to a higher plane with new programs designed to entertain, inform, and educate.

ENTERTAINMENT BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION

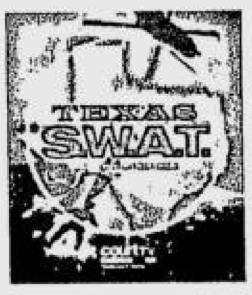
AXN BEYOND™

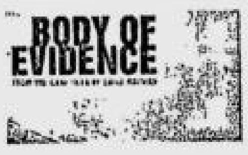
SkyCable is proud to be one of the first cable providers in the world to carry ***AXN Beyond***, the new channel dedicated to uncovering the unconventional, the extraordinary and the unbelievable. A spin-off of the highly popular action-adventure channel, ***AXN Beyond*** is home to thrilling sci-fi and fantasy, horror and paranormal TV series such as *The Dresden Files*, a mystery/fantasy series based on the books by Jim Butcher with Nicolas Cage as one of the Executive Producers. The lead character, Harry Dresden, is a professional wizard and reluctant hero who often helps the police with cases involving "unusual" circumstances. Also available first on ***AXN Beyond*** is a sci-fi series called *PainKiller Jane* which is based on the cult comic book series of the same name. You can also look out for all-time favorites such as *Supernatural*, *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* and *Hex*.

Crimes of passionate TV viewing

FOXCRIME

BROTHERHOOD





True Stories. Real Masterminds.
Every Week – The Heist of a Lifetime.
MASTERMINDS

Avid followers of mystery and suspense series will have more than one reason to stay glued in front of their TV sets as SkyCable welcomes ***Fox Crime***, the most popular factual and fictional entertainment television channel. Featuring shows on crime and investigation, ***Fox Crime*** has been dominating the airwaves in the US and is expected to be one of the top rating new channels on SkyCable with the Asian premiere of two much talked about shows – *Brotherhood*, a Showtime original series about the lives of two brothers in Providence, Rhode Island; and *Dexter* starring Michael C. Hall who plays a forensics pathologist expert with a dark, eerie side. Also in the pipeline are *Texas S.W.A.T*, *Trace Evidence: The Case Files of Dr. Henry Lee*, *CSI*, *CSI: Miami*, *Law and Order*, and *Masterminds*.

BOUNCE WITH EXCITEMENT

Balls

Sports buffs will find a new TV companion in ***Balls***. The new sports channel brings exclusive and extensive coverage of popular tournaments such as the hardcourt tennis action of the US Open 2007 beamed live from Flushing Meadows in New York, USA. Also included in its line-up are the coverage of the US NCAA football and basketball games, South America's Copa Libertadores, international boxing matches, select PGA, LPGA, ATP and WTP tournaments, surfing, Thai kickboxing, darts, and bowling. Apart from getting live scores and statistics of these events, ***Balls*** will also feature magazine and news format shows such as *Transworld Sports*, *Rally World*, and *Road to Beijing*.

New kid channels on the block

kids co

New kid channels on the block. Making its Philippine premiere is ***KidsCo***, the new children's channel that caters to kids of all ages. Pre-schoolers will like *Rolie Polie Olie*, *Madeline*, *Little Bear*, *Clifford* and *Magic School Bus* while young school children will enjoy watching *6 Teens*, *Jane and the Dragon*, *Archie's Weird Mysteries* and *Famous Jett Jackson*. Classic movies are also in the offing such as *Merlin*, *The Prince and the Pauper*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. KidsCo will be available to SkyCable Gold subscribers.

And as a response to the overwhelming request from SkyCable Silver subscribers, they will now have access to the popular ***Disney Channel*** also by January 2008. Kids will be delighted to see their favorite Disney characters in shows such as *High School Musical*, *Little Mermaid*, *Lilo & Stitch*, *Good Morning Mickey*, *Kim Possible*, *Strawberry Shortcake*, *Mr. Bean*, *Martin Mysteries* and *Totally Spies*. Educational programs like *Art Attack* and hilarious sitcoms such as *Even Stevens*, *That's So Raven*, and *Lizzie McGuire* are but some of the kid-friendly fare Silver subscribers can expect to see.

DISNEY CHANNEL

KIM POSSIBLE

Catch a preview of these newest, up-to-the-minute channels and programs on SkyCable

Channel 33

starting

October 1, 2007!

MAXXXimum viewing pleasure

MAXXX

It's all about machismo, heart-pounding action and how a man thinks in ***Maxxx***, the new channel suited for today's mature men. Packed with testosterone-fuelled programs ranging from martial arts, online games, poker, to auto shows, ***Maxxx*** will be a must-watch station for the male audience. Some of the programs included in the line up are *Bullrun*, a series that puts people behind the favorite wheels in an all-out rally across the US; *Unique Whips*, which showcases how celebrity luxury cars are transformed to one-of-a-kind works of art; and *Xplay* featuring witty and downright hilarious commentaries on the latest video games.

UNIQUE WHIPS

Velvety smooth programming

VELVET

Energetic, forward-thinking, tasteful, strong, yet still a woman – that's ***Velvet***, the new definitive channel for chic women. Roll in laughter with award-winning comedy series; be touched by heartwarming and edgy romantic dramas; catch the latest Hollywood gossip; or be inspired by controversial talk shows – these are the kinds of programs to look forward to on ***Velvet***. Among these programs are *The View*, the extremely popular and often controversial talk show produced and hosted by television icon Barbara Walters; and the US classic and daily TV staple *Good Morning America* hosted by well respected broadcast journalist Diane Sawyer. Other exciting shows include the new crime and drama series *Crossing Jordan*; *E! News Weekend*, the primary entertainment news source from Hollywood; *Soup* and *Extreme Makeover Home Edition*.

This new channel line-up was developed as a result of consumer feedback, ratings and commercial consideration, and designed to ultimately benefit SkyCable subscribers. With the entry of these new channels in January 2008, SkyCable will no longer carry the following channels: Basketball TV, Solar Sports, Jack TV, ETC, 2nd Avenue, and Crime/Suspense.

FOR INQUIRIES, CALL THE SKYCABLE CUSTOMER HOTLINE AT 631-0000 OR LOG ON TO www.skycable.com.